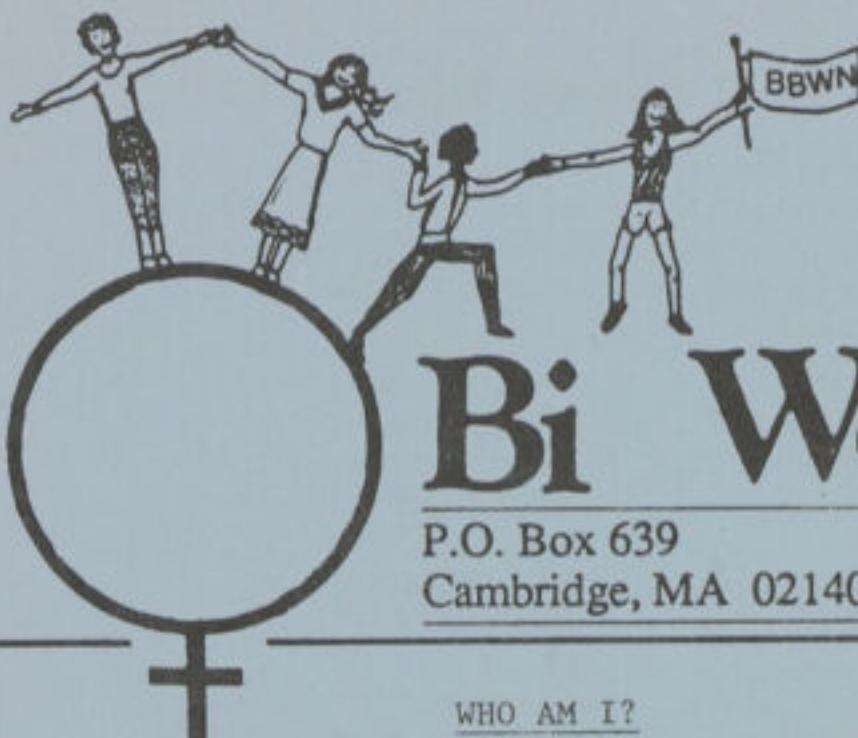


February - March, 1987



Bi Women

P.O. Box 639
Cambridge, MA 02140

Volume 5, No. 1

WHO AM I?
by Natalie Bacon

(reprinted from *Bi-Lines*, Nov. 1986 issue, newsletter of the Women's Bisexual Drop-In Rap Group of the Pacific Center in Berkeley, California.)

Sex researchers are discovering the unlimited variation in human sexual response and preferences, yet our society continues to program us to fit into one model of sexual behavior within rigid legal, moral and social boundaries. I'm a late bloomer; a woman who did not become orgasmic until I was 34, after having four children. Now at 59, I'm questioning my sexual orientation to see where I fit into the continuum of human sexuality.

I believe my sexuality is defined by my genetic make-up, my hormonal activity, my orgasmic potential and my reproductive capacity. The issue of my sexual orientation is confused because my orgasms defy categorization. If a heterosexual woman is defined by her ability to have orgasms during intercourse without clitoral stimulation, then I have never been heterosexual even though I gave birth to four children and endured years of intercourse as my marital duty just as society said I should.

Am I a lesbian woman because I discovered how to have orgasms with a woman, gave up my husband and children for the love of this woman and lived in a monogamous marriage with her? When the court decreed me unfit to be the mother of my children because I loved a woman, was the last vestige of my heterosexuality legally abolished?

And where do I fit into the picture 25 years later, after a hysterectomy and menopause when my estrogen level is diminished and my androgens have been freed from the suppression of estrogen? Am I now androgenous because hormonal changes have increased my libido and I have discovered multiple orgasms in the autumn of my life?

My marital partner was an impotent man, until his death on June 20, 1986, so I didn't have intercourse but received copious clitoral stimulation leading to orgasmic satisfaction. Am I heterosexual because my orgasms are enhanced by the clitoral caresses of my male partner and by rub-

bing my clitoris against his penis during gentle vaginal penetration? Or am I bisexual because I have a history of being orgasmic with a woman and continue to enjoy being sexual with women?

Perhaps I am an auto-erotic woman because I require continuous manual, oral or electric stimulation of my clitoris to awaken nerve pathways between my vagina and breasts, enabling these and other areas in my body to trigger orgasms? Are my orgasms real if they are always different in sensory, emotional and spiritual content?

And where does the sex-negative social conditioning that denied me the opportunity to masturbate as a child and have sexual experiences during my youth, and which taught me to save my virginity for my husband but denied me information about my pleasure potential, fit into my sexual orientation?

During the first 34 years of my life, I self-identified as asexual because of being non-orgasmic. Biologically, I felt comfortable being a female and never envied a penis, no matter what Freud said. As a maternity nurse, I had accurate information about the reproductive part of my sexuality, but I did not know my clitoris was the source of my pleasure.

Raised in an era of sexual silence, I was never told that the Master Designer of the Universe created my body with a clitoris whose only reason for being is pleasure and the release of tension through orgasms.

How would my sexuality look and feel if I had been encouraged to grow up as a natural human being, without the brainwashing of our sex-negative culture, and had been free to touch my genitals? What would my experience of orgasm be like if I

(continued on page 2)



The newsletter of The Boston Bisexual Women's Network

did not fear unwanted pregnancy because I had been taught that my vagina was for procreation and my clitoris was designed for pleasure and stress reduction? Would my body be more healthful if I were encouraged to use my orgasms for tension release according to the natural design of my body? How would my perception of men be changed if I had total control over my body, my orgasms, my reproductive rights?

Is there a model of the parameters of female sexuality? What is politically correct? Do labels have any meaning? After due consideration, I prefer to be who I am at the moment, without fear or judgement; to experience the diversity of my feelings while anticipating the changes that will be happening in the coming moments.

Natalie is co-author, with her late husband Ralph, of "LOVE TALK: A Model of Erotic Communication." She is in the process of organizing an anthology of erotica in book form called "The New Erotic Woman." She invites anyone interested in submitting articles, poetry, graphics, etc., to contact her at: 3 Walnut Circle, Rohnert Park, CA 94928; 707-584-0344

Newsletter Staff:

Laura Sachs, Co-Editor, Typing, Calendar, Layout
 [REDACTED], Co-Editor, Layout, Artwork

Mary-Charlotte Domandi, Mail handling, Mailing
 List Maintenance

Contributors: [REDACTED], Laura Sachs, Sharon G.,
 Robyn Ochs, Natalie Bacon, Roger/Seattle

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Luann B., title preparation
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Outrageous Women
 A JOURNAL OF WOMAN-TO-WOMAN SM

- Fantasy • Analysis • Erotic art • And much more

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P.O. BOX 23, SOMERVILLE, MA 02143

Second Worst News For Men

A *Guide to Nonsexist Language*, published by the Project on the Status and Education of Women, Association of American Colleges, recommends these alternatives (among others) for those who like their language sexually neutral:

No	Yes
Fatherland	Homeland, native land
Founding fathers	Pioneers, colonists, forebears
Gentleman's	Informal agreement, your word, handshake
Ladylike, girlish,	Tender, cooperative, polite, sissy, effeminate
Lady luck	Luck
Maiden name	Birth name
Maiden voyage	First voyage, premier voyage
Male chauvinist	Chauvinist
Male ego	Ego
Man-sized	Husky, sizable, big, large, voracious
Sportsmanship	Fair play
Unwed mother	Mother
Waitress	Wait person

Worst News For Men

Diane Desimone in *Mademoiselle*:

During the past two decades, scientists have been studying how the brain behaves in males and females. And through a variety of carefully designed lab tests, researchers have found a whole slew of ways in which the behavior and skills of men and women differ.

Women, for example, seem to be much more sensitive to sound than men are. We're more attuned to all manner of tastes, smells and touches. We're better at reading the emotional content of faces. And we have the upper hand in a number of important verbal skills: reading, grammar and verbal reasoning. We're also better at putting information and events into context than men are, and we pay more attention to small details.

Men, on the other hand, are... better than women, by and large, at dealing with maps, mazes and math.

It's that "by and large" that gets us. But we have noticed that women are getting better at mazes.

NOTE: CALENDAR DEADLINES

If you wish to send in a calendar listing, please note that the newsletter comes out in December, February, April, June, August, and October. Calendar listings must be received at least three weeks before the first of the month that the newsletter comes out. In other words, if you have a listing for February or March, we must receive it by the second week in January at the latest.

Reader's Forum

Hello there!

In Bi-Nieuws from the Netherlands we read about your group. We are glad that the times are changing, that bi-sexual people are coming more and more out of the closet, that there are more alternatives in ways of life!

We would be glad to get information about the Boston Bisexual Women's Network. If it's possible to get your newspaper free for the archives, we would be very happy, because we only have got a small amount of money for buying material, but there are a lot of people, as well as bisexuals who are using the archives for information. Could you think about that? I enclose some information about us, and if you have questions, please write!

I hope to hear from you, take the best wishes from here,

Wajo, for the Collective,
Lesbian Archives, Leeuwarden

Dear Friends,

I am writing on behalf of the Women's Bisexual Drop-In Rap Group of the Pacific Center in Berkeley, California. A former member of our group forwarded along copies of your Bi Women newsletter, which is how we learned of your organization.

We are interested in establishing contact with any other bisexual groups we can find around the country. I have enclosed a copy of our latest monthly newsletter, Bi-Lines, in hopes that we can establish a newsletter exchange with you. We would be interested in receiving any information about your group -- how it's organized, how you get new members, what your activities are, etc. We're very impressed by your newsletter, and feel we could learn something from you to help our own group and our own, fledgling, newsletter!

Let me tell you something about us...We are one of at least a dozen drop-in support groups sponsored by the Pacific Center, an agency with counseling and related services for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, TVs and TSs. We meet every Wednesday for approximately 2 hours, then usually go out for coffee and socialize for awhile afterward. We have found that, gradually, we have become much



more than a once-a-week rap group. Thanks mostly to the energy of Naomi D., who is a co-facilitator of our group along with Janet T. and myself, we also have monthly social gatherings (usually a Sunday afternoon potluck at a member's house) and our monthly newsletter, which I edit.

It was Naomi who began compiling a mailing list 1½ years ago. We now have approximately 105 women on our list, which is divided into an open list (available to any member of the group) and a closed list (seen only by the facilitators). Some of these women are regular attendees of the Wed. night raps, some only come to the potlucks, some we see seldom or only once -- whatever the case, we feel we have built the basis for a real network of bisexual women in our area. And, as far as we can determine, we are the only such group in Northern California, and the only one on the West Coast between Los Angeles and Seattle. We receive no financial support from the Pacific Center, which does provide us with a place to meet. We have financed the printing and mailing of Bi-Lines solely through donations of time and money from members of our group.

We were excited to learn of your existence, plus the existence of groups in Van Nuys, Calif., and Hawaii (their addresses are in the enclosed Bi-Lines). If you know of other groups, we'd appreciate it if you could send us their addresses. There was once a Bisexual Center in San Francisco, but like its counterpart in New York, it collapsed. Some of our members were part of that Bi Center and are hoping we can once again create a space for ourselves, especially given the repressive nature of our society and concerns about AIDS that we feel are adding to the prejudice against bisexuals....Thank you for any information you can give us, and please let us know if you would like to continue to receive Bi-Lines.

Best wishes,
Nancy G.

BODYWORKS



MARGARITA ASCENCIO
576-1493

53 RIVER STREET, CAMBRIDGE, NR CENTRAL SQUARE

TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

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DO YOU STILL
SUFFER FROM
MONTHLY BINGES
AND MOOD SWINGS?

WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.
JOIN OUR M.I.T. RESEARCH STUDY.
FOR INFORMATION CALL:
253-3087, 3077
ASK FOR RONI OR MAUREEN
MUST BE FREE FROM MEDICATION AND HEALTHY.

4 Reader's Forum

(Cont. from pg. 3)

Dear Gals,

Of course I was tickled that you printed the "Opening Closets, Opening Minds" bit that I sent you. Now I find that the editors of the pending publication (note Real title): Opening Minds, Opening Closets (a textbook of gay and lesbian studies, pending publication) are a bit miffed because I did not ask permission ("Little old me? Important?") first. Basically, they don't mind, but it is like being "scooped."

— I'm glad our people can read it first, and it will appear in the book (hopefully in the coming year).

Warm furry wishes,
Marcia Deihl

Clarification; please see related letter below:

The essay we printed in issue Vol. 4, No.5, "opening Closets, Opening Minds" was printed with permission of the editors of Opening Minds, Opening Closets, a textbook of gay and lesbian studies, which is pending publication. I wish to thank them for soliciting such a piece, and I look forward to the publishing of the book -- we need it in colleges (high schools! Kindergartens!).

Thanks,
Marcia Deihl



Just hangin' out

Roommate and friend wanted to share my new top floor 2-Bedroom condominium. It's on a quiet, pedestrian street on Beacon Hill. No smoking or pets. Available March 1. Has roofdeck and skylight. Let's make it our home. Call Jean at: 661-6006 (Parent's house) before 10:00pm or at work, 267-1991. Please be discrete. Rent \$450 per month including heat.

Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes 11/2

11/23/86

Present: Nancy K., Robyn O., Laura S., Betty A.
Mirta P., Sharon G.

- 1) Further discussion ensued re: having general meetings at the Women's Center; Nancy to contact Sharon at Collective when they have their monthly meeting.
 - 2) Conference update, meeting pending with parties from Boston and New York to establish dates and location.
 - 3) "Let's Connect" update, Betty has received approximately 40 responses, and more are trickling in.
 - 4a) Re: Oct./Nov. issue of the newsletter: print was too small, too much information - we need to prioritize volume and reduce costs.
 - 4b) Addendum - related conversation re: budget for newsletter, possible purge of mailing list, possibly send notes about cost and need for payment of dues as sole source of revenue for Network at the moment.
 - 5) FUNDRAISING - suggestions about having talent/auction - people from network to donate talent/skills/services, etc. to be auctioned off at a Dance/Party - to be in the Spring - o.k. to invite BBMN, \$\$ to BBWN, target date April/May (see last page of this newsletter) other suggestions have been made; CC has list.
 - 6) Change of newsletter name to Bi Women; We have a national mailing list and want the newsletter to reflect this (only our calendar is local)
 - 7) In related discussion to #6, the question was raised as to when the decision was made to change the name of the newsletter. The ensuing

(continued on page 5)

SUPPORT YOUR NETWORK!

!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!

Name _____ Phone _____ Zip _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

\$6 LOW INCOME

\$12 REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

\$25 SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

\$50 NEAR GODDESS

I have paid BBWN dues since _____ and am therefore a current member.

I am not interested in being a member at this time, but have enclosed a gift of \$ _____ to support your work.

I am unable to send any money at this time but please keep me on your mailing list.

Please delete my name from your mailing list

THANKS!!!!THANKS!!!!THANKS!!!!THANKS!!!!THANKS!!!!THANKS!!!!!!

Make checks payable to BBWN and send to P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140



(Continued from page 4)

result was the decision to be very specific and to make sure voting takes place on any proposed changes.

8) Financial report: \$397.90, money in account to cover bulk mail, newsletter cost \$190.00, envelopes were purchased \$40.00 for mailing, see about non-profit status.

9) Confidentiality: Put article in newsletter noting that only our box number will appear as our return address from this point on.

10) Laura has been authorized to have a stamp made with our new return address.

11) Discussion is continuing about creating a BBWN Brochure containing info about who we are, membership, what we do, herstory of the network, etc. Robyn, Mirta, Laura to work on this project.

12) Questions have risen re: other groups requesting support from BBWN and our conflicts with political issues jeopardizing ability to get non-profit status. The decision was made that the CC can sponsor or endorse, but that sponsorship does not necessarily represent the entire network.

13) Discussion continued about direct germaine support to other groups. Guidelines need to be established as to what is and is not o.k. to sponsor.

14) A decision was made to do a sponsorship re: International Women's Day. We have authorized people to run ad for IWD in newsletter to endorse/help to organize the events. We have opportunity to become members of IWD organizations. Sharon to find out about the ad.

15) Further discussion about support to other groups included having separate policies in regards to specific sponsorship requests vis-a-vis things that relate to Lesbian/Gay/Women's issues/Women's Sexuality, etc. Sponsorship requests to be dealt with on a case by case basis, with women's sexuality taking precedence.

16) General Meeting update: Theresa & Mirta led the meeting, 11 women were there, A support group of Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics is forming, call 247-6683 and leave word if you are interested.

--Laura Sachs



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 11/15/86	397.90
------------------------	--------

Expenses

Printing December/January	
Newsletter	233.68
Postage	165.00
Bulk Mail Permit Renewal	50.00
Miscellaneous	8.00

Total	\$456.68
-------	----------

Income

Membership Dues	578.00
Checking Account Interest	2.49

Total	\$580.49
-------	----------

Balance as of 1/18/87	\$521.71
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Dear Readers:

I am about to be consumed by my passion to organize the masses, and I need your help. Not with the organizing (although that would be wonderful), but with a much simpler task. One of you out there is going to replace me as treasurer of the Network so I can give more attention to my work on the Conference, a network fundraising event (see last page), the Pride March, etc.

As BBWN's treasurer I spend about an hour per month paying bills, depositing checks and writing a treasurer's report for the newsletter. I also attend monthly Coordinating Committee meetings where I act as "financial advisor". Treasurer is an important position, but it is also relatively low energy. In the past year I have written exactly 44 checks and been to the bank only once to sign on to the account. Most business is done by mail.

So, if you can balance a checkbook and would like to put some energy into the care and feeding of a Bisexual Network (ours), please leave a message on the tri-network phone, 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE). Your help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Sharon

NEW WORDS
A WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE

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FRI., SAT.
10-9 THURS.
12-6 SUN.
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Editorial

Looking over the last few issues of the newsletter, Laura and I saw that it lacked passion. This is indeed a serious situation. No-one wants a life without passion. There have been some very interesting articles from all over, and we have learned from them. However, we as a network, have been timid at sharing our own thoughts, our own issues. Too many of us have sat back on our asses and not participated. This attitude has shown up in other areas besides the newsletter. Few new women are coming to Coordinating Committee Meetings. This leaves the decisions about the network with only a few people, who may not express our full diversity. Remember the network is each of us and all of us. It is exactly what we make it. Also, few women have paid their annual dues. Not having money limits all the marvelous things we can do. This is not good. It is also easy to change.

This newsletter is read by close to 700 women. SEVEN HUNDRED WOMEN. What potential! We are a diverse group. Each one of us is rich in experiences. The network is precious. This newsletter is our means to communicate with eachother. Let us use the newsletter as a resource: to share our feelings, our laughter, to bounce ideas off eachother. It is a special forum to use as we choose. What would you like it to be? Let us take risks and share what is inside us.

What would you like to ask the women of our network? We are all women who if not bisexual are bi-sensitive. What issues have you had difficulty with that you would like to hear how others handled? By sharing your issues you will help others: most certainly another woman is in



the same predicament. Too, what would you like to share? What has made you smile inside? We have strength, love and vitality inside us. We don't want to agonize over our bisexuality, we want to celebrate it !!!!

I have some questions I would like to ask. I need to hear some different perspectives. I am considering committing myself to a relationship with a man, possibly monogamous. I look forward to the intimacy, (though it scares me) and the nurturing, yet it sends me into turmoil. I am afraid of the compromises. I am unsure how I want to blend the many different aspects of my life: my new job, my commitment to the network, friends, here and overseas, and the relationship. How do you define your bisexuality in the context of one committed relationship? What conflicts, surprises, and successes have you had? How do you mix friends? I want to hear from other women.

There are other things we want to hear about. What have been significant points in your sexual and social lives? What was your first orgasm like? Your first lover? The first time you bought birth control? What have you liked or disliked in the newsletter? If you don't want us to use your name, say so. Write us about it! We are waiting to hear from you!!!

We each make a difference. We each have so much to offer. We are caring vital and passionate women. Yes, PASSIONATE women. Let's get up off our asses, reassess where we are, and get moving again. Let's drop in on a Calendar event, pay our annual dues, go to the fund raiser, write a snippet for the newsletter, and celebrate who we are!!! To life!

Jean and [Signature]

Concert Listings

FEB. 14 (Sat) Holly Near, Linda Tillery, Teresa Trull, 5 & 9 pm. at Somerville Theatre, Davis Square. Call Folk Tree Concerts 641-1010 for more info.

FEB. 28 (Sat) Sweet Honey in the Rock, 8:00pm., Strand Theatre, Dorchester. Call Allegra Productions 547-1378 for more info. March 1 (Sun)

March 5 (Thurs) Hunter Davis, "Snappy folk/pop/blues, 8:00pm, at the Cambridge YWCA, call Allegra Productions 547-1378 for more info.

March 19 (Thurs) Ann Reed, "Humorous, poignant singer/songwriter, 8:00pm, at the Cambridge YWCA, call Allegra Productions 547-1378 for more info.

April 4 (Sat) Cris Williamson with Tret Fure, 6 & 9:30pm, at the Somerville Theatre, Davis Square. Call Folk Tree Concerts 641-1010 for more info.

THE FLOWERING TREE

The woman in me
The man in you
together
Make at least
four partners
in our love affair.

The little girl in you
The little boy in me
adds at least
two more
to our celebration of life.

The old man in me
The old woman in you
brings to eight
the number of our lovers.

Together
we fill the infinity
of the universe
with love.

Bernardo Garcia Pandavenes

RETREAT REPORT
(or... Out Of The Woods)

The Second Annual Penn Lesbian and Gay Community Retreat was held on the last weekend in October, at Camp Fernbrook, in Pottstown, PA, in a beautiful, secluded, wooded area. Aside from the informal social activity that took place, the retreat focused on four structured workshops: Lesbians and Gay Men Working Together, Bisexuality, Racism in the Gay and Lesbian Community, and Lesbian and Gay Relationships.

The Bisexuality workshop was organized by four University undergraduates. After stereotypes of bisexuals were solicited from the entire group (including that bisexuals are people who are merely in a transition state, on their way to being gay, and also that bisexuals are just overly promiscuous people who see everyone in sexual terms), each of the four organizers shared personal experiences and feelings. At that point, the group broke down into small groups of about five people, and the negative reaction of the gay community to bisexuality ("biphobia") was discussed. The overwhelming feeling from the participants was that the workshop tremendously increased their understanding of bisexuality, and a group of bisexuals and students questioning their sexual orientation is currently being formed under LGAP's auspices.

Also from the LGAP Newsletter under Miscellaneous:

Thought for the month: "The degree and kind of a person's sexuality reach up into the ultimate pinnacle of his or her spirit." -- Nietzsche

Note from the editor: Bravo, Bravo, forward thinking persons at Penn.

Excerpts:

Reprinted from the Lesbians & Gays at Penn
Newsletter, Vol. II, Issue 2, Nov./Dec. 1986:

Intelligence Report CONTINUED

She Deserves Better

Unquestionably, Martina Navratilova, 30, formerly of Czechoslovakia but now of Fort Worth, Tex., is the best woman tennis player in the world. She has won every title worth winning, including seven Wimbledon singles and three U.S. Open championships. She is an intelligent, generous woman who probably has donated more of her prize earnings to charities than any other current tennis pro. Her conduct on the court is exemplary. She always gives the fans a match

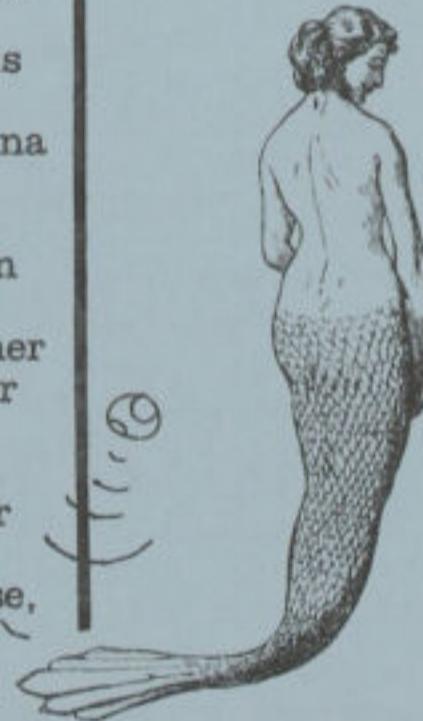


UPI/Bettmann

Maligned Martina

for their money. She has raised women's tennis to a new level. She occupies a class of her own.

Why, then, is she not as popular a crowd-pleaser in this country as, say, Chris Evert Lloyd? Can it be because Martina is foreign-born or so superior in her play that her triumphs are now taken for granted? Can it be because she is a victory-obsessed competitor who neither asks nor gives any quarter? Or is it because she has honestly and bravely revealed her bisexuality, rather than suffer the trauma that comes from living in the closet? In any case, she is a woman worthy of our admiration and respect.



BETH WALSH

MASSAGE POLARITY

576-1493

(617) 623-7258

Paths to Integration

Bisexuality is a complex sexuality. All of us have come to understand it and accept it from our individual backgrounds and experiences, and thus to some extent all of us will integrate it in ways that are particularly fitting to our individuality. However, many of us follow certain pathways or choose to concentrate our efforts in certain areas to aid our integration. Some of these we've noticed over the period of the support groups are:

1. Proportional Bisexuality. Some of us feel that we have integrated our sexuality well if we know in what proportion our sexuality is straight or gay. For example, someone might say they are a "60-40" bisexual, meaning they sense they are attracted to one gender to a greater degree than the other.

2. Adaptable Bisexuality. Some of us feel that we are basically bisexual but that if we are in an opposite sex relationship we are "straight" and that if we are in a same sex relationship we are "gay."

3. Relationship-Specific Bisexuality. Some of us feel that we are only bisexual when we are in concurrent relationships with an opposite sex and same sex partner.

4. Physical Attraction-Based Bisexuality. Some of us feel that one of the most significant factors in our sexuality is a deep physical attraction for the special qualities each gender gives to us or that we find valuable in relating to each gender specifically.

5. Gender or Political-Centered Bisexuality. Some of us feel that one of the most significant paths to integrate our sexuality or to understand it better is through exploring our own gender and the special issues that our gender faces in today's society, e.g. combatting stereotypes, fighting oppression. Some may feel that their partner relationships with their own gender will always be special in some sense because of these issues.

6. Individual-Oriented Awareness. Some of us feel that a path helping our integration is to explore the particular ability bisexuality seems to give us in transcending barriers or divisions between people and elevating our consciousness of the value of individuals and individuality.

This non-exhaustive listing is set down to aid our ever-growing awareness of the varied ways we can positively integrate our sexuality with the rest of our lives. Do you find elements of more than one of these ways in yourself? Do you find yourself more tending toward one than others? Do you know members in the support groups who integrate bisexuality in other ways than you do?

Reprinted from BI and LARGE, Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Support Network, Vol. 4, Winter

Roger
Seattle, 11-16-86



Honor Roll

Special thanks to the following women for time and energy generously given to the BBWN during the months of November, December and January, 1986-87:

Sharon G.
Jean K.
Lisa W.
Kim P.
Beth I.
Mirta P.
Betty A.
Ruth L.
Ellen H.
Blake W.

Hope
Nancy K.
Robyn O.
Kris B.
Nadine D.
Laura S.
Ruth K.
Luann B.
Mary-Charlotte D.
Joanne T.

Extra special thanks to Chris M. and the little furry girls for letting us invade their home twice a month!

Massachusetts AIDS Hotline toll-free (800) 235-2331



MARRIAGE AND BISEXUALITY

Support and study group now forming for married bisexuals and other women interested and/or dwelling on the subject.

An introductory meeting is going to take place on February 11 (Wed. - see calendar listing). For more information, please contact: MIRTA, P.O. Box 98, Newton Lower Falls, MA 02162. Or call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE), and leave your name and number or address. Please make sure to mention that you are interested in this specific group/meeting. We will discretely respond.

WE KNOW YOU KNOW

that SOJOURNER is Boston's women's newspaper. But do you subscribe? If so, then you get the paper much faster—and give us much-needed support. So why not arrange to get the news, calendar listings, and other wonderful things we offer before they're available on newsstands? Just send your name and address (and \$15) to: SOJOURNER, 143 Albany St., Cambridge, MA 02139. Your writing, photos, and ads are also welcome, of course; just call 661-3567 for details.

Calendar



FEB. 11 (Wed) Married Bisexual Women's Introductory Meeting at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., near Central Square, 7:30pm. (see blurb in newsletter) Call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) and leave a message specifically for MIRTA. We will discretely respond.

FEB. 12 (Thurs) Lucie Blue Tremblay, "Enchanting Canadian singer/songwriter, 7 & 9 pm. at Cambridge YWCA. Call Allegra Productions 547-1378 for more info.

FEB. 14 (Sat) HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!

FEB. 19 (Thurs) Boston Bisexual Men's Network Steering Committee Meeting. Call Wallace at 498-8178 for directions or to put something on the meeting's agenda. Women Welcome.

FEB. 22 (Sun) BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting, 6:00pm. LADIES, come one, come all, everyone welcome to participate in the direction of YOUR NETWORK! At Robyn's, call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) for more info.

FEB. 22 (Sun) ONGOING: Rock Against Sexism holds disc-parties (tea dances) the last Sunday of every month 6-10pm at the 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St., Boston. Everyone 21+ welcome \$2 suggested donation.

FEB. 23 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night, 7:30pm. Come help with odd jobs that keep the network going. Meet new friends and socialize with other bi women. We always have fun!! At Robyn's, call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) for more info.

FEB. 28 (Sat) FEMME CORE SPACE Presents: "I Am What I Wear," a new comedy revue by the United Fruit Company, at 8:00pm. A Dance/Party will follow the performance, \$3 suggested donation, 464 Harrison Ave., corner of Thayer St., South End, near Dover Station on the Orange Line, Call Lucy at 734-9348 for more info.

March 1 (Sun) TIME TO GET OUT YOUR DANCING SHOES! Let's get together at CAMPUS (Brookline St., Central Square, Cambridge, near Central Square T). This is an informal event. Let's meet in the room that is directly in front of you as you enter the club, in the right hand corner. Women only.

March 7 (Sat) INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION! Workshops, events, activities, opportunities to network! 10:00-5:00pm., Cleveland Middle School, 11 Charles St., Dorchester, near Fields Corner T-Stop.

March 8 (Sun) INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH!! March & indoor events - Speakers, films, performers. Starting point to be announced. For info call Louise at 628-8964.

March 14 (Sat) Deadline for April/May Newsletter.

March 29 (Sun) BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting, 6:00pm. LADIES, come one, come all, everyone welcome to participate in the direction of YOUR NETWORK!! At Robyn's, call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) for more info.

March 29 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism - see details of FEB. 22, part of the evening's proceeds will go to "Two in Twenty", a lesbian soap opera video, which will be screened at 8:00pm.

March 30 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night. NEWSLETTER STUFFING for April/May issue. Stuff, 2,3,4, Stuff, 2,3,4. A little work, but good for the soul! Where else can you learn about bulk mail and have so much fun at the same time? DON'T miss out! At Robyn's, 7:30pm. Call 247-6683 for more info.

April 6 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm. ALL WOMEN WELCOME! Call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) for more info.

April 12 (Thurs) Jennifer Justice, 8:00pm, "Flights of Fantasy" storytelling, at the Cambridge YWCA. Call Allegra Productions 547-1378 for more info.

April 25 (Sat) BBWN FUNDRAISER - Talent Auction and Dance Party. Time & Place to be announced in next newsletter. We NEED people to help organize this event. If you are interested, please call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) and leave a message.

May 9 (Thurs) Judy Sloan, Character Actress, 8:00pm, Cambridge YWCA. Call Allegra Productions 547-1378 for more info.

May 16 (Sun) TAG SALE - PMS (a mostly-bi women's Pledge of Resistance affinity group) will be holding a tag sale from 10-5 to raise money for the Pledge of Resistance and to send medical supplies to Latin America. Location: Church at 11 Garden St., Cambridge. If you have any goods to donate or wish to help out, please call Robyn at 576-1066. AND PLEASE COME & SHOP!

IN GENERAL: AMETHYST WOMEN sponsors monthly dances for women. These dances are drug, alcohol and smoke free, and are a lot of fun. Look for listings of these events in SOJOURNER, Gay Community News, and Bay Windows.

A BBWN Fun(d)raiser . . .

TALENT AUCTION
& DANCE PARTY

(co-ed)

Saturday, April 25

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP -

Support BBWN by donating your talent. Anything goes. For example - a car tune up, guitar lesson(s), financial planning consultation, babysitting, housecleaning, type a resume, dental checkup, massage, or any services or goods you are in a position to donate.

Call Robyn at 576-1066.

(further details next newsletter)



Bi Women

APRIL - MAY, 1987 VOLUME 5, NO. 2
P.O. Box 639 Cambridge, MA 02140

BI OF THE MONTH: BETTY AUBUT

by Robyn Ochs

One September evening in 1983 Betty Aubut got into her car and headed for Cambridge. About halfway there she turned around and drove halfway back home to Brookline. Then, halfway home, she turned her car around again, rallied her courage and finally made it all the way to the Women's Center. She was on her way to a BBWN General Meeting. When she arrived to find Betsy Rose singing *Glad to be a Woman* to a room packed with 80 bisexual women, Betty knew she had found her home.

Betty had never been comfortable with her sexual identity. As a teen she had dated and had nonsexual relationships with boys, having learned from porn magazines that sex was a violent, unpleasant act. In fact, Betty did not even like the idea of being a woman, as 'woman' meant to her glamour magazines, flirting, helplessness and dependency. Betty had been in a relationship with a woman, but had avoided labelling her sexuality, preferring the term asexual. Her attraction, she rationalized, was to a particular person, not to **women**. Her torturous coming out process had included several suicide attempts, mostly because she was afraid of being gay. Her family was overtly homophobic and she felt her parents would prefer a dead daughter to a gay daughter.

But Betty made it to her first BBWN meeting and joined a support group which lasted for six months and resulted in a relationship and several lasting friendships. Betty joined the Coordinating Committee a few months later and has since devoted an enormous amount of

energy to BBWN and the ECBN. She has edited and served as Managing and Advertising Editor of the Newsletter, organized general meetings, served as the telephone contact person, and helped organize one regional conference and two regional retreats. In short, Betty has been indispensable.

Following are excerpts from an interview conducted with Betty in early September:

R: What happened to you when you joined BBWN?

B: My entire self image began to change, my lifestyle, my self-confidence. I developed close friendships. BBWN was the vehicle for coming to feel good about myself. I don't know where I'd be if I hadn't gone to that meeting at the Women's Center. An important step toward being comfortable as bi was being comfortable as a woman. BBWN was my first exposure to women's music and women's culture. All my internalized homophobia just went down the tubes. I realized all of my conceptions of gay people were a lot of bullshit, because I realized that you were all great people, and all of the stuff I had internalized was a lie. I grew up all these years not being able to say the word queer out loud (my family forbade it - "queer" was a swear word in my house), and now I am one and I'm proud. The Net-network came along at a time when I was at a major life transition. I had moved here from Texas, had major back surgery, and had lost my entire social network. BBWN helped me develop friendships and become a social person again. I feel like a

cont. on page 2

The newsletter of The Boston Bisexual Women's Network

whole different person. I'm out to my family because of support from BBWN. They are trying to accept it. Sometimes it's easier for them than other times. My mom now says I look like a dyke, so I "femme" up every once in a while for her.

R: What does BBWN symbolize for you?

B: I love going to the bisexual conferences and seeing 'dykes on bikes', men with women, women in skirts, men in skirts (more men than women). I'll see men dancing with each other, and then dancing with women. This is what BBWN is all about. It's the gay and the straight communities coming together, with all these people being able to be in the same place at the same time without passing judgments on who's wearing what, etc. It's a roomful of people getting along and there's space for everyone. Bi energy is great energy, it's strong energy.

R: What have you learned as a result of your involvement with BBWN?

B: BBWN has helped me develop a lot of skills, especially public speaking skills. It has made me a radical feminist. I didn't know what feminism or women's culture was before I became involved in BBWN.

R: How do you feel about the directions BBWN has taken?

B: I feel great about the network's growth in size. I get excited everytime I get a phone call from someone who's never heard of us before. The focus of the network has changed over time. My level of comfort with the network changes too - sometimes the network feels very heterosexually identified, and other times it feels very lesbian identified, depending upon who's on the CC. I sometimes feel like the dissenter. It is important that BBWN meet a lot of different needs, e.g. the "Over 35" support groups. I would like to see more people get involved. I've heard complaints that CC is a lot of young people, which is interesting because the mean age of women on the CC is about 30. If older women want more older women on the CC they should join. People need to see BBWN as their group.

R: What is your current sexual identity?

B: I call myself a "bisexual lesbian." I will always politically identify as bisexual, which to me means opposing restrictive categories. Some days I feel real separatist, and other days I feel that I want to be involved with men. Being bisexual to me means that I see men and women whom I'm attracted to. A man would have to be very special for me to want to get involved with him but I will fight for bisexual rights whether or not I'm sleeping with men. I see the bisexual community and movement as a very important bridge between gays, lesbians and straights. As long as gays and lesbians are considered completely 'other' from the mainstream, we'll never have any power. I consider myself gay. I think bisexuals are gay and gay liberation is our liberation. I don't consider myself 100% straight and 100% gay; I am 100% gay. That doesn't mean I won't sleep with a man every now and then - some lesbians do that. I never used to identify as lesbian out of respect for women who made the lifelong choice never to sleep with men, but then I realized that was a lot of bullshit. Calling yourself lesbian does not necessarily mean you have made that lifelong decision. Now I mostly identify as a lesbian - so I call myself a bisexual lesbian. I don't sleep with men right now, but I have male friends whom I spend time with and cuddle with. I've even become socially involved with some of the men from the men's network. I'm proud of where I am now because it's been so hard for me. People who have known me for a long time can't believe the change

cont. on page 3

It is a lot
to think about.



in me. My sexual identity was non-existent much of my life, and now, sometimes it seems to be the only part of me I can always count on. I go through many times when I don't know where my life is going, where I am going. Thank God/dess at least one part of me is there always: my sexual identity and my bi friends. I've torn off my "straight" jacket and don't miss it very much.



Reader's Forum

Dear Sisters:

I've been a member of BBWN for quite some time (at least 1½ years), but because I work fulltime and live in Rhode Island, it's rather difficult to participate in Network activities which are all located in Boston, and often on weeknights when it's a hassle to get there and back without losing too much sleep.

I think Rhode Island could use a Network--or at least a division of the Network in order to get Rhode Island members more involved with BBWN, and not feel quite so isolated from everything. I would be willing to organize a RIBWN if there are people willing to join with me in getting such a group formed.

I'm wondering if you can perhaps mention this in the newsletter, using my name and address (and telephone number also) as a contact. I really enjoy the Newsletter, but don't feel a part of the Network simply because everything's based in Boston and points north.

If there is something I can do for the Network even though I'm based down here, please let me know. In the meantime, please mention the idea of a Network group in Rhode Island in the newsletter.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,
Linda R. Collette

P.O. Box 1774
Pawtucket, RI 02862
(401) 722-8187

Dear Friends:

Thank you Jean and Laura for your inspired and inspiring editorial in the February-March issue. I expect that you will be flooded with responses to such an inviting call for the passions of our lives.

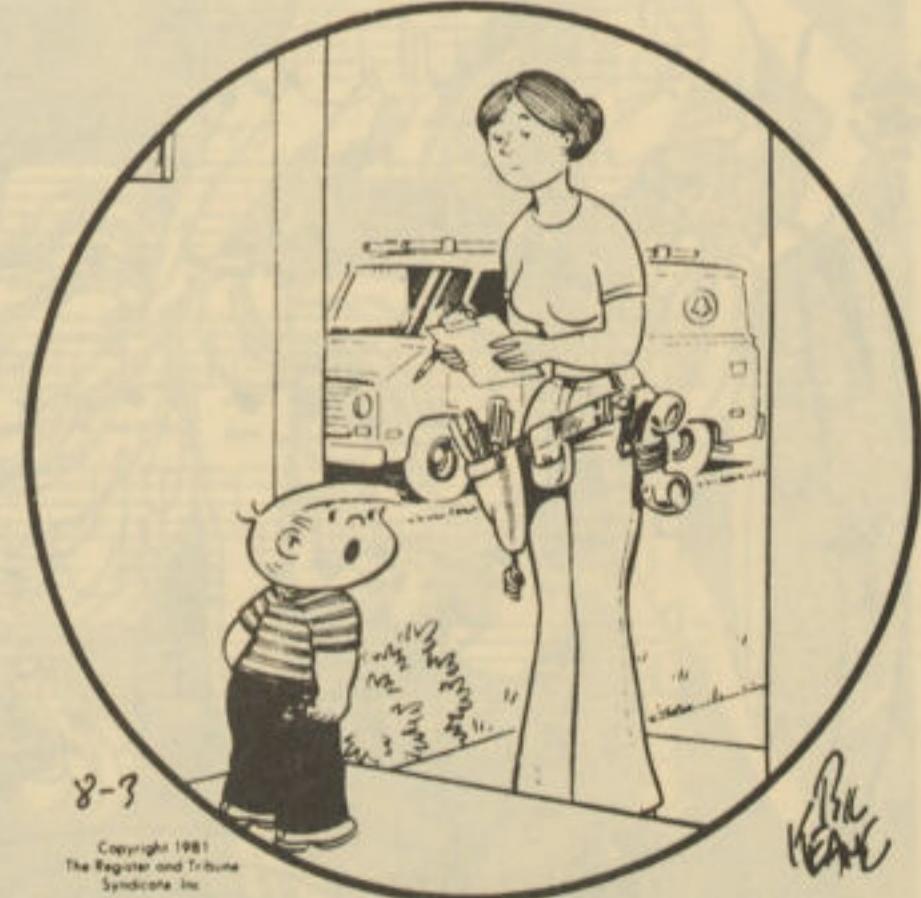
I am enclosing a song which I have been thinking of sending since I began receiving the BBWN Newsletter one year ago. It is your editorial that has finally got me in motion. I am a songwriter and performer. For years I had tried to write a song which would convey some of my feelings as a bisexual woman. I wanted to express the joy I feel in my sexuality, yet also include some of the conflict within myself as well. But, I did not want the song to be stuck in conflict as often happens when the topic of bisexuality arises.

And so one day it occurred to me to write the song as if I had children - what would I say to them about sexuality? This is the song that comes out of that question.

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network newsletter has been an extremely important source of strength for me - I want to say thank you to all you women who have begun the project of creating bisexual community. I don't know whether you realize how farreaching your project has become. Here in a little town in Florida, knowing that you exist, and reading your stories in the newsletter, stories which are so much like my own,

cont. on page 4

The Family Circus



"The telephone man's here and he's a girl!"

4 Reader's Forum

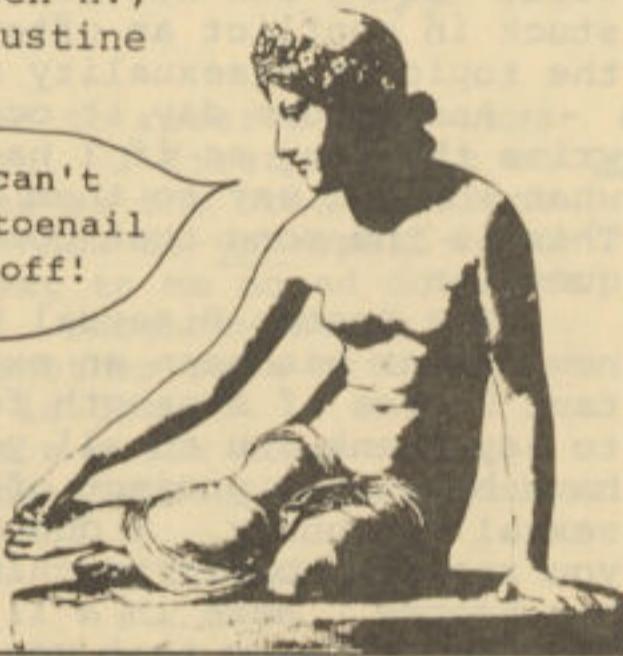
cont.

has given me the courage to be more out about my sexuality - both in straight and womyn's spaces - and even on stage! It is my experience, that despite the hard issues and hard feelings that surround the issue, I feel much more connected to myself now that I am "out", and as a wonderful fringe benefit, I am now more in touch with and have possibly even helped begin to create a delicately emerging bisexual community here - we are everywhere!!

I hope that some day I will be able to be in the Boston area and do a concert with you - it would be a pleasure indeed to sing with a whole room full of bi-sensitive and bisexual people!!

Thank you, much love,
Kathleen H.,
St. Augustine

I just can't
get this toenail
polish off!



Pleasures of the Earth

©1985 Kathleen Hannan

Passion is a gift of wilderness
You will find it on your own
Fields of skin and blood of ocean
Bring the pleasures of the earth to you
Bring the pleasures of the earth to you

With the clarity of sunlight
With the longing of the moon
Hands of fire and tongues of water
Bring the pleasures of the earth to you
Bring the pleasures of the earth to you

Wedding chains were made to bind you
Prison walls surround us now
Priest and priestess from their pulpit
Hide the pleasures of the earth from us
Hide the pleasures of the earth from us

Children of this wounded planet
Do not listen to the lies
Heed the call of your desire
Find the pleasures of the earth again
Find the pleasures of the earth again

Passion is a gift of wilderness
You will find it on your own
Fields of skin and blood of ocean
Bring the pleasures of the earth to you
Bring the pleasures of the earth to you
Bring the pleasures of the earth
the pleasures of the earth
the pleasures of the earth to you

Play these verses in $\frac{2}{4}$ double time
feeling.

Slow back down to a waltz feeling

Pleasures of the Earth

©1985 Kathleen Hannan

2m:

Am Dm²

Passion is ... a gift of Fields of skin ... and blood of ocean

Dm² Am G

Fruitful skin ... and blood of ocean bring the pleasure of the earth to you

Am G

(resting) Bring the pleasure of the earth to you

Am G

Bring the pleasure of the earth to you

Am

The pleasure of the earth to you

Am

The pleasure of the earth to you



Hi Gals!

Just a little note to say hello and that I miss you terribly. I'm aching to have you around me soon again.

This place just doesn't have the women's community I desperately need for support, friendship, and wild fun stuff. (I want a cake with boobs for my birthday!!)

Things in school are going well, although I'm a little overwhelmed with work. I'll be in Boston for International Women's Day (so far that's my plan) so I'll see you then - in the meantime stay just the way you are.

Love,
Astrid



Hello Women!

I was so glad to receive your newsletter, it's great! I first read it on the "T" - one look at the bold headline BI WOMEN and the "how-do-you-spell-homophobia?" woman next to me moved down the bench a few feet. Unbeknownst to her, she was 2" from another pink triangled woman! Ah, life is grand!

Well this is a quick note to say thank you from the Emerson Women - you're doing a bang up job!

V Kingsley
E.L.B.A.

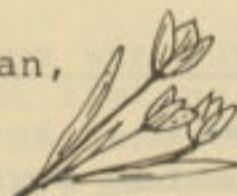
(Emerson Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance)

Dear Editors,

I read your plea in the newsletter last night and I want to say to you and the other 700 women HELLO!! I do agree that the overall mood of the past issues has been rather sterile, but receiving the thick envelope from you every two months has always given me an added sense of unity with the membership of BBWN!!

My schedule and lack of transportation has made it difficult to attend monthly meetings, but I think of BBWN often.

Another passionate woman,
Yours,
Susan C.



Dear BBWN:

I just want to tell you how grateful I am you exist. It was hard enough, a few years ago, coming out gay - my pop was a psychiatrist and I had a huge amount of self-doubt to deal with. I was saddled with the concept of gay as a mental illness! Well, finally, because my heart cannot be caged, I managed to

learn to live with myself in a somewhat uneasy truce.

Just when I began to think I knew who and what I was, I started to have crushes on men again! "Now what?!" I thought, "Am I really gay? Am I straight? Was my father right all along when he told me I was mentally ill? Was I now becoming mentally well?" The trouble was, I still very much liked women, and furthermore, though I had crushes on men I had no interest in sleeping with them. "If I don't want to sleep with them," I agonized, "Why the hell do have to get crushes on them?" It completely shattered my newfound clarity.

I'd seen ads for BBWN many times, but seemed to find many reasons for not going. "I'm not bisexual," I'd say, "I don't sleep with men." My biggest fear, I think, was that I really was bisexual (horror!) and that if that was the case, several unpleasant things would happen. First, no woman would go out with me - after all, I might run off with some guy at any time. Second, I'd have to only date bisexual women - and they'd probably run off with some guy! Third, I'd have to acquire a three-way relationship including a man and a woman, and I hated the thought of loving in a triangle. Or

cont. on page 6



"Might I cook you breakfast?" "Hmmm..."

6 Reader's Forum cont.

fourth, I'd have to become promiscuous, and that's never been my way.

I smile now to think that I believed all those myths about bisexuality, but it was an extremely painful four or five years before I finally realized I had to look at my bisexuality - as I said before, my heart can't be caged.

I tremulously arrived at one of BBWN's introductory meetings one night, having no idea what to expect. The intro meeting didn't address my specific concerns but advised us attendees to organize our own support groups to share our experiences. I was determined to stare reality down and make it my own, so I made sure I connected with some women who set up a second meeting.

I only attended the support group three times (I live an hour's drive out of Boston) but that's all it took to settle my fears of four years! We had a wonderful mix of women, from almost strictly gay to almost strictly heterosexual, and everything in between. We talked openly about our fears and trepidations - what an enormous relief to say out loud the secret I had guarded so rigidly! I'd tried to talk to friends outside of BBWN, but often received negative feedback. Either my friends didn't know what help to give me, or they were positively hostile about my "selling out" on my gayness. Here was a group of women who didn't judge me at all - they just let me be exactly what I was!

The group helped me even further than I expected, because we also began to talk about stereotypes in other areas of our lives. As I said before, coming out gay for me was terribly difficult. And one of the things I sought was a rulebook, or guidelines. For instance, I'd thought, "Does being a dyke mean you have to cut your hair, stop shaving your armpits, and start playing softball?" I,



(No, it means you must pound nails.)

like a lot of women, went through a time when I tried to do what I thought I was supposed to do in order to qualify as a dyke. A tremendous burden was lifted from me at my BBWN support group when we suddenly realized, suddenly declared that what we were supposed to be was what we were!

It seemed so surprising that I had not seen it before! Especially me! I'm an independent, self-motivating person, and here I was shackled by someone else's expectations!

Since that time I've cultivated myself as a person who acts from the heart not from outside expectations. I've

cont. on page 7

SUPPORT YOUR NETWORK!

!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!\$\$\$\$\$!!!!!!

Name _____

Phone _____ Zip _____

Address _____

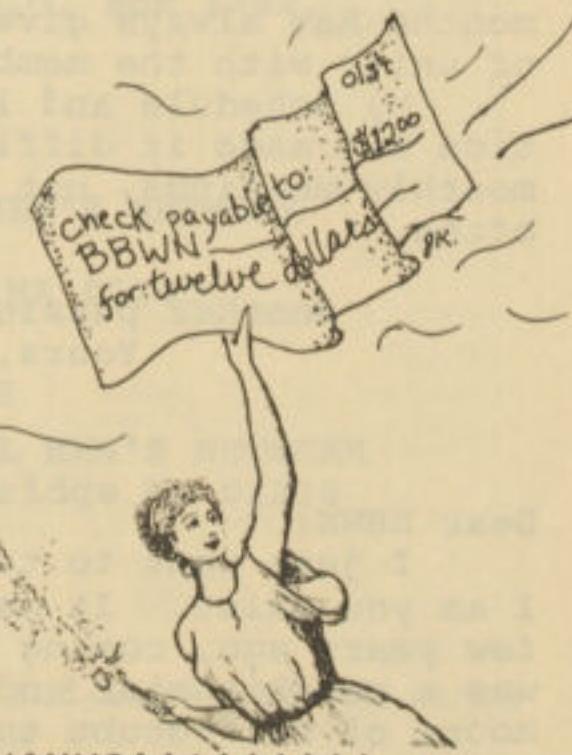
City _____ State _____

\$6 LOW INCOME
 \$12 REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

\$25 SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP
 \$50 NEAR GODDESS

- I have paid BBWN dues since October and am therefore a current member.
 I am not interested in being a member at this time, but have enclosed a gift of \$_____ to support your work.
 I am unable to send any money at this time but please keep me on your mailing list.
 Please delete my name from your mailing list

Make checks payable to BBWN and send to P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140



THANKS!!!!THANKS!!!!THANKS!!!!THANKS!!!!THANKS!!!!THANKS!!!!

grown my hair long again because I love long hair. I started shaving again because it feels good. And I still hate softball. I realized at the support group that I do feel drawn by certain men - because they are attractive and I like them, and that's a wonderful thing. What a shame to have discarded that warmth before because I was so afraid of my own feelings! I've also realized that for me, a relationship with a man is limited sexually.

I like them, I sometimes get crushes on them, but I really don't want to sleep with them. But I understand so much more now about those women who find full sexual and romantic pleasure in both men and women, and no longer have to shun them because, once again, I'm afraid of my own feelings. I can now be friends with and date bisexual women like myself as easily as I can strictly gay women. So there's a second group of people I'm no longer amputating from my life.

And probably the best thing that has happened is that when someone says, "Are you gay?" I now answer, with complete self-acceptance, "Strictly speaking I'm bisexual, but for all practical purposes I'm gay." It's not mandatory I say I'm bisexual, I could "get away with" saying I'm gay, but it's been important for me to declare, as the song so stirringly says, "I am what I am!"

Thank you, thank you, thank you!
-- Cristine C.

P.S. And by the way, my comfort in declaring myself bisexual has helped other women to speak more comfortably about their bisexuality - now there's a terrific argument for coming out!



HERE A BI, THERE A BI, EVERYWHERE A BI, BI!

What other bisexual groups are out there? Following is a partial listing of bi groups in ten U.S. states, and in several other countries. If you know of any other groups, or if any information listed below is incorrect, please let us know so that we can keep up to date.

United States

California

ARETE, P.O. Box 725
Van Nuys CA 91408 (213) 876-1872



THE BI FORUM
c/o Institute of Sexual Behavior
381 4th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 293-3381

BISOCIAL CENTER, 7136 Matilija Av.
Van Nuys CA 91405 (213) 873-3700

WOMEN'S BISEXUAL GROUP
Attn: Naomi Demby
c/o The Pacific Center
2712 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705
Connecticut

GAY, STRAIGHT, BI ALLIANCE
Box 1295
Connecticut College
New London, CT 06320

Hawaii

BOTH SIDES NOW, P.O. Box 5042
Kahului, Maui, Hawaii 96708
(808) 575-2681

Illinois

ACTION BI WOMEN, 606 W. Barry
Box 117, Chicago IL 60657

BIWAYS
P.O. Box A3330
Chicago, IL 60605

Iowa

BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP
c/o Student Activities Center
Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City
IA 52240 (319) 354-0988

Maine

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK
c/o Ginny LaCrow, P.O. Box 1792,
Portland ME 04104

Massachusetts

BOSTON BISEXUAL WOMEN'S NETWORK
(That's us)
Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140
(617) BIS-MOVE

BOSTON BISEXUAL MEN'S NETWORK
Box 1645, Cambridge MA 02238
(617) BIS-MOVE

E.L.B.A.
Emerson Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance
Attn: V Kingsley
(617) 266-0115

cont. on page 8

LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, GAY ALLIANCE
413 Student Union, Box 66, U.Mass,
Amherst MA 01002

LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, GAY COUNSELING
COLLECTIVE, 433 Student Union,
U.Mass Amherst, Amherst MA 01002

PROGRAM FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL
CONCERNS, 101 J.Q.A., U.Mass
Amherst, MA 01002

VALLEY BISEXUAL NETWORK, c/o Ray
Paquette, Jr., 24 Cowles Rd.,
Amherst MA 01002 (413) 549-6985

Missouri

SAINT LOUIS BISEXUAL WOMEN'S
SUPPORT GROUP c/o Vicki
3022 Virginia, Apt. D, St. Louis,
63118 (314) 771-1026 (8-10am, pm)

New York

BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP
c/o Bill Himmelhoch, 4861 Bdway #6S
New York, NY 10034

Pennsylvania

BISEXUAL AND QUESTIONING c/o GWE
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA
19081

Washington

SEATTLE BISEXUAL WOMEN'S NETWORK,
c/o Seattle Counseling Svcs. for
Sexual Minorities (206) 328-1243

CO-ED BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP, c/o
Seattle Counseling Svcs. for Sexual
Minorities (206) 328-1243

REGIONAL

EAST COAST BISEXUAL NETWORK
Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140
(617) BIS-MOVE

Europe

LONDON BISEXUAL GROUP
BM/BI
London WC1N 3XX
England

LONDON WOMEN'S BI GROUP
c/o BM/BI
London WC1N 3XX
England

PINK DANDELION (bi radical les/gay
identified gp.), The Basement,
69 Elm Grove, Brighton BN2 3E2
England

LANDELIJK NETWERK BISEXUALITEIT
P.O. Box 5087
1007 AB Amsterdam
Netherlands

EDINBURGH BISEXUAL GROUP
c/o Lesbian/Gay Centre
58A Broughton, Edinburgh
Scotland
031-557-3620 (Thursday Evenings)

H. BRUNS - POTHOFF
Bleichstrasse 35
4900, Herford
West Germany

INITIATIVE BISEXUALLER FRAUEN &
MANNER, c/o E. Kocher
Am Niddertal 31, D-6000
Frankfurt, 90
West Germany

- submitted by Robyn Ochs

Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes:
1/25/87

Present: Nadine D., Sharon G., Astrid M.,
Robyn O., Laura S., Nancy K.

- 1) We agreed to send the newsletter to a man (Jeff) in Detroit who is trying to start a bi-network.
- 2) International Women's Day: Sharon is our liason. We agreed to sign an agreement in support of IWD and give \$25.00 as support. Due to money constraints Sharon, Laura, Robyn and Nancy volunteered \$5.00 each.
- 3) A small ad for Bi-Women appeared in the February issue of Ms. Magazine.
- 4) Gay Community Center: The possibility of having office space in the Gay Community Center was discussed. Someone from the CC will look into it further.
- 5) Conference Update: Organizers from Boston have met twice in Hartford with reps from New York and New Jersey. Site is P.S. 41 in West Village, May 16-17. Great Workshops, panel on Alternative Lifestyles, inspiring keynote speaker. Still need people to help organize.
- 6) BIS-MOVE Phone line: Woody needs Help! He wants a woman's voice on the cont. on page 9



tape. Can ECBN buy an answering machine? The one we have does not have enough functions. Robyn will get approval from ECBN to see about purchasing a new one (or does anyone have a new one that they might be willing to donate?).

7) Bi Women, Newsletter: It is unreasonable to continue creating and printing the newsletter. We are running out of energy and money. We need to firm up policy on ads and collection.

New Policy

- a. Need a roommate ad: \$3.00
- b. Commercial/Business: \$7.50 per issue, \$20.00 for 3 issues

8) In light of the financial crunch we will be purging the mailing list during our September funding drive.

9) Fundraiser: April 25th:

Food - Sharon
Talent/Auction - Robyn
Space, Ad in BBMN newsletter - Laura
Phone # - Nadine

GO TEAM!!!

NOTE: Chris M. unofficially motioned that no more fundraisers are to be held on her anniversary date with Robyn. Passed with consensus.

10) Proposal: Instead of General Meetings, have an informal social gathering and large events during Fall and Winter.

submitted by: Nancy K.

Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

CC MINUTES, FEBRUARY 22, 1987

Present: Betty Aubut, Nadine Dolby, Annie Hoffman, Mirta Preger, Robyn Ochs, Dorian Sellers, Beth Reba Weise (Seattle Bisexual Women)

1) WATTS LINE. Dorian has offered free to bi gps. use of her Watts line (east coast) to be installed in March, and to list bi gps. in her "people connection" service.

2) TREASURER'S REPORT. Bal. \$266.40. (We need money.)

3) FUN(D)RAISER. Site rented, Sharon will coordinate food, Robyn will coordinate Talent Auction, next meeting March 4.

4) CONFERENCE UPDATE. Conf. planners meeting monthly in Hartford. Conf. date May 15-16 NYC.

5) INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

BBWN will bring banner. Look into setting up table at march.

6) SEATTLE GROUP. Beth reported on Seattle Bisexual Women's Group, founded 8/85, which offers an open bi-weekly support group, monthly socials, slumber parties and a feminist discussion group. Mailing list @ 50. Also in Seattle: a 10 yr. old very small mixed bi group, and a small men's bi group. Beth will write an article in Bi Women with more detail.

7) MARRIED WOMEN'S GROUP. Met in Feb., 17 women came (mostly new to network). 2 ongoing gps. formed. Mirta possibly organizing support gp for male partners of bi women.

8) LET'S CONNECT. Betty reported slow progress being made. The Apr/May newsletter will contain list of topics and locations of interested women and, after people get 1 more chance to sign up, list will be sent to interested women.

9) BUTTONS. Robyn selling buttons at \$1 @ to fundraise for BBWN (Half Gay, I Love Bisexuals, Mobile Non-Smoking Area, Why Be Normal, etc.).

10) CONFIDENTIALITY. Need to get indiv. permission to print last names in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 1/18/87	\$521.71
<u>Expenses</u>	
Letramax 2000/future newsletters	18.38
Printing Feb./March Newsletter	219.13
Postage	71.30
Pre-inked Return Address Stamp	16.90
Tri-Network Phone	17.05
Envelopes	61.60
Returned Check	17.00
Service Charge	8.25
Total	\$429.61
<u>Income</u>	
Membership Dues	\$281.00
Checking Account Interest	4.59
Total	\$285.59
Balance as of 3/21/87	\$377.69

Calendar

April 6 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm. ALL WOMEN WELCOME! Call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) for more info.

April 15 (Wed) Fundraiser/General Planning Meeting, 7:30pm, at Robyn's, call 576-1066 for more information.

April 19 (Sun) BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting, 6:00pm. LADIES, come one, come all, EVERYONE welcome to participate in the direction of YOUR NETWORK!! At Robyn's, call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) for more info.

April 21 (Tues) BIS-MOVE, We SKATE too! Come join us for a quite informal (no tuxedo required) get together at Spin-Off to Skate the night away! From 8-11pm, Lansdowne St., Boston, near Kenmore Square. Please meet inside near exit stairs at back of skating area.

April 22 (Wed) Fundraiser "Dress Rehearsal" Meeting 6:00pm, Ticknor Lounge, Boylston Hall, (Harvard Yard, Cambridge) Call 576-1066 for more info.

April 25 (Sat) BBWN FUNDRAISER!!!!: Please see enclosed flyer for details.

April 26 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism presents a Tea Dance (Disc Party), 1270 Club, 6-10pm, 1270 Boylston St., Boston. SPECIAL: 10-YEAR Anniversary where the only music played will be the RADICAL ROCK 'N' ROLL that INSPIRED R.A.S.!!! Everyone 21+ welcome, \$2 suggested donation.

April 27 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night, 7:30pm. Odd Jobs to be done that keep the network going. Come and Socialize, #1 Agenda item: FUN. At Robyn's, call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) for more info.

Needed: Volunteers to help out at Talent Auction/Dance Party on April 25. Needed: set-up crew 6-7:30, ticket sellers (30 minute shifts), clean up crew 11:15-midnight. Call Robyn 576-1066 to volunteer.

Needed: BBWN needs a folding table. Do you have one you don't use? Call BIS-MOVE and leave message.

Honor Roll

Nancy K.	Lisa W.	Marge L.
Laura S.	Sharon G.	Astrid M.
Robyn O.	Mirta P.	Annie H.
[REDACTED]	Nadine D.	Beth W.
Mary-Charlotte D.		Karen H.
Dorian S.		Betty A.

Special thanks to these women for time and energy generously given to the BBWN during the months of February and March, 1987.

May 13 (Wed) Deadline for June/July Newsletter.

May 16-17 (Sat/Sun) THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON BISEXUALITY!!!! (Please see enclosed flyer).

May 16 (Sat) TAG SALE, 10am-6pm, 11 Garden St., in Harvard Square, Cambridge. Fundraiser for the Pledge of Resistance and for direct medical aid to a health center in Esteli, Nicaragua. Donations of goods are needed. Call Marcie at 648-0776 if you have things to donate. For more info, call Sue at 625-2518.

May 27 (Wed) *****BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting (PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL DATE) 7:30pm, at Robyn's. Come on down and participate in the direction of YOUR NETWORK! Best place to be on a Wednesday evening! Call 247-6683 for info.

May 31 (Sun) ONGOING: Rock Against Sexism, please see details of April 26, all info the same but this evening music will be mixed bag!!

June 1 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night. STUFFING THE NEWSLETTER!! DON'T MISS OUT. You'll never have a greater opportunity to learn the intricacies of bulk mail!! At Robyn's 7:30pm, call 247-6683 for more info.

June 8 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, please see details of April 6, everything is the same. ALL WOMEN WELCOME. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

Notice: The Coordinating Committee has been moved from the last Sunday to the THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH. Volunteer Nights are still the last Monday. Call BIS-MOVE for info.



Newsletter Staff:

Jean Kropper; Co-Editor, Layout,
Artwork
Laura Sachs ; Co-Editor, Typing,
Calendar, Layout
Mary-Charlotte Domandi; Mail
Handling, Mailing
List Maintenance

CONTRIBUTORS: Kathleen H.,
Laura Sachs, [REDACTED],
Astrid M., Susan C., Sharon G.,
Christine C., Robyn Ochs, Linda
C., V Kingsley, Nancy K.,





Bi Women nemoW iBi

Volume 5, No.3 June-July 1987

Bisexual Women in Seattle

by Beth Reba Weise

The Seattle Bisexual Women's Network had its beginnings in June of 1985. Jet Tenly had attended a few meetings of the Bisexual Support Group at the Seattle Counseling Center for Sexual Minorities (SCCSM), but she didn't feel that this mixed-gender group fitted with her needs. So in June she put a one line ad in the Seattle Gay News (SGN) that read: BISEXUAL WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP. CALL XXX-XXXX. That ad elicited some calls, but not many. In July, Caitlin Sullivan, a reporter with SGN, called Jet to see what had come of the ad. This resulted in an article about Jet's attempts to start a women-only group which generated 176 calls. The first big meeting for the group was August 24, 1985. Many of the core members who came to that initial meeting are still with the group.

Later on in the fall, the group moved from meeting at Jet's home to a house belonging to two other members of the group, Beth and Ellen. The group was meeting every other week, Sundays at 12:30. In January of 1986, Jet put another ad in The Weekly, Seattle's version of the Village Voice. That ad resulted in 268 calls on Jet's phone machine.

Not all the women who called came to the group, in fact few of them did. But it did bring women to the meetings.

(continued on page 5)

LIE BETWEEN THE ROSES

I long to lie between the roses,
glancing toward the heavens
through the perfumed mist,
with the thorns peircing my body.
The pain within is more piercing.

I long to float beneath the sea,
looking skyward through rippling
clouds.
The lack of life-giving air
is painful,
but the pain within is stiffling.

I long to fly in the astral skys,
never caring for the mortal,
leaving the pain in the other
dimension.
Leaving that pain within.

R.K.

(A Maori woman poet from
New Zealand)

The newsletter of The Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639 Cambridge, MA 02140

BBWN SAVED!

(For Now)

The financial future of BBWN has been made secure, at least through the summer. The April 25 fun(d)raiser, a combination dance and auction with over 30 goods and services donated, went off without a hitch, raising a much needed \$1,000.

Prior to this event, our account held less than \$100, an all-time low. The cost of putting out just one newsletter is over \$400, once printing, postage, reductions, envelopes and production materials are taken into account. So our newsletter alone costs us \$2500 per year.

And what are our other expenses? We have to pay for our post office box, monthly bank fees, and telephone rental costs, as well as the ongoing costs of responding to correspondence, sending out press releases, calendar listings, etc. The post office charges us many dollars each month because women move and forget to give us their new address. Then there's the cost of renting space for meetings and events, money to be fronted for our various events (i.e. the upcoming June 13 "Brunch Before the March").

So where does our money come from? Our records show that only a few hundred of our 900 readers have actually made a donation to BBWN this year. If you are one of those people, we thank you. If you are one of those who forgot, or decided that you had better things to do with your money, we ask you to reconsider. BBWN has a policy of making the newsletter available to all interested women, regardless of their ability to pay, but this can only work if we act responsibly.

I ask that each woman on the mailing list consider at this time making a donation to BBWN. Any donations made from this date forward will count toward your 1987-88 membership (which is good through August of 1988).



2

The membership categories are as follows: \$7 low income; \$14 regular membership; \$25-49 a Sustaining Member; and \$50+ a Near Goddess. If you are in a position to make a large donation, please do.

We need you to survive and to flourish. If you believe that BBWN's existence is important please act now.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR DONATION TO THE FUNDRAISER:

BUSINESSES

Action Video
Allegra Productions
Arborway Video and Sound
Arlington Food Cooperative
Bay Windows
Clayground Pottery Studio
Federal Wine
Folk Tree Productions
Gay Community News
Passim
Referral Services
Rock Against Sexism
Sojourner
Underground Railway Theatre
Wildwood Inn,

To Liz, Marge, Susie, Ruth, Becky, Sylvia, Theresa, Annie, Mary, Laura, and Jill for donating services or goods,

To Chris for donating a sound system,

To all of the women and men who volunteered at the event with set up, clean up, and sales,

And to Robyn, Laura, Mirta and Sharon (for producing the event)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BATTERED WOMEN

HAWC (Help For Abused Women and Their Children) offers help for battered women of all sexualities. This organization offers special groups for lesbians who are or have been in abusive relationships. All services are free and confidential, and HAWC can be reached at 774-6841 (Salem, MA).



HERE A BI, THERE A BI,
EVERYWHERE A BI, BI!

Continued

Bi-Pol
20 Cumberland
San Francisco CA

Bay Area Bisexual Network
(founding meeting May 1987)
call (415) 929-9299 for info.

Gay Lesbian Bi Students Assoc.
U.C. Berkeley
Berkeley CA

Bi Support Group
P.O. Box 1621
Royal Oak, MI 48068

Other groups we have heard of
but have incomplete info about:
By Choice in Los Angeles, CA, and
support groups in San Rafael CA.,
St. Paul MN, E. Lansing MI, and
New Jersey (2 groups). If you have
any information about these groups,
please call or write us.

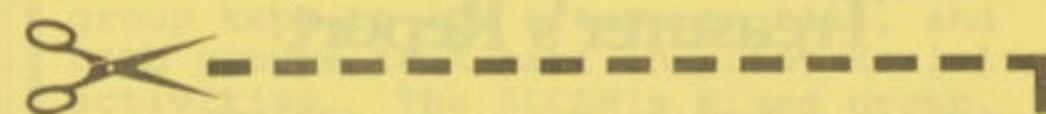
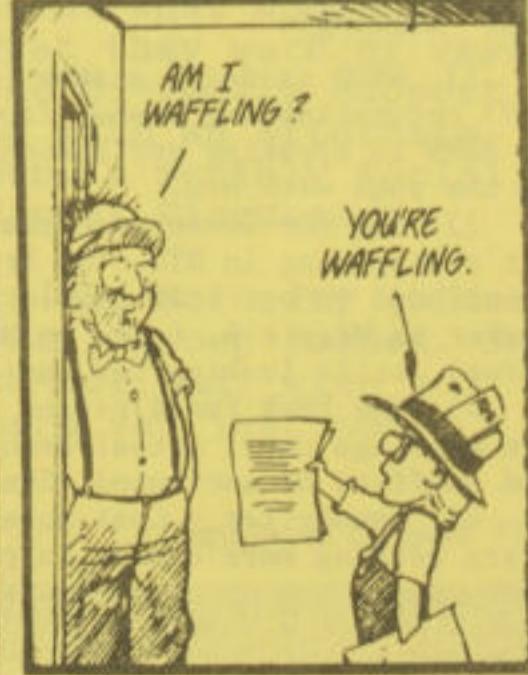
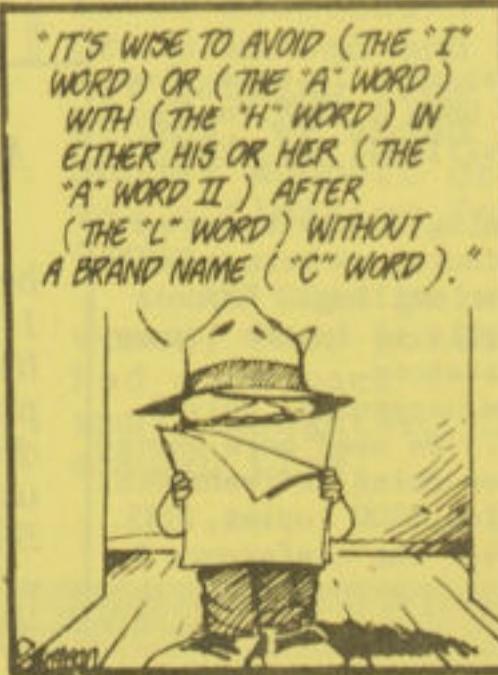
**** Correction: Women's Bisexual Group
in Berkeley CA: Attn: Naomi (don't
use last name).

(The co-editors of Bi-Women regret the inclusion of Naomi's last name. It was the result of a miscommunication and we apologize.)

One of the above mentioned groups has been found:

By Choice
P.O. Box 931123
Los Angeles, CA 90093
(818) 998-7306

BLOOM COUNTY by Berke Breathed



Bi Women

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

New subscription

Renewal

Check one: Low income (\$7)
 Regular (\$14)
 Sustaining (\$25-49)
 Near Goddess (\$50 and up)

Note: Mailing list is confidential.

Moving? Please give us 4 weeks notice:

B.B.W.N.
P.O. Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140
(617) 247-6683.

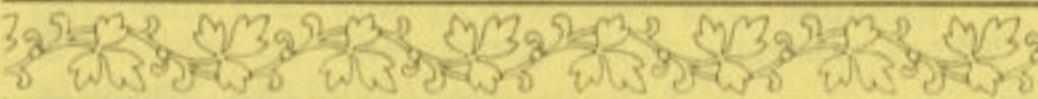
**SUPPORT
YOUR NETWORK!**



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 3/21/87	\$377.69
<u>Expenses</u>	
Postage	148.56
Tri-Network Phone	17.05
Printing April/May Newsletter (this does not include reductions or supplies)	299.25
Total	\$464.86
<u>Income</u>	
** Net amount received from Auction	811.75
Memberships and Donations	140.00
Total	\$951.75
Balance as of 5/25/87	\$864.58

** PLEASE NOTE: There are still some outstanding Auction payments due. Please send them in as soon as possible. Thanks very much.



Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

CC MINUTES, MARCH 29, 1987:

Present: Laura, Sharon, Betty, Robyn.

A) The meeting did not start promptly at 6:17pm when 3 of 4 attending could not rouse themselves from Robyn's jigsaw puzzle. Robyn joined in after "C" left and the meeting was now officially underway. Sharon led the way by having acquainted herself with the puzzle by arriving early. She was at least 4 pieces ahead of us all. Laura became obsessed with the one missing piece in the right uppercorner. Betty joined in for a while in obsession, but both eventually gave up and moved to another locale. Malvina Reynolds sang "We Don't Need The Men" for us - which was enjoyed by all.

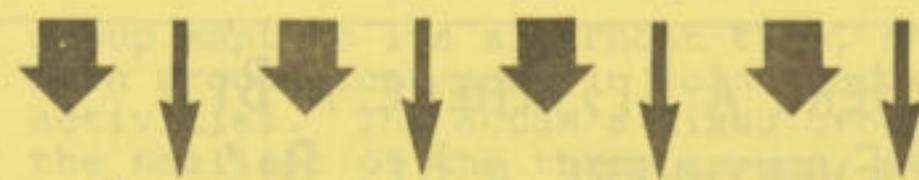
Sharon, ecstatic at having found 2 more pieces, stated that Beth I. was interested in running the next retreat with one other person. Everyone was so pleased 2 more pieces were found. 3 pieces co-joined in a non-traditional way outside the boundaries and confines of what is normally allowed. At this juncture, Laura started getting really cocky about her ability to fill in the "holes". (Egads, double entendre!) (Now for the "real" meeting):

1) WROR is doing a show (taping 4/2, to be aired 4/19) requesting one member from BBWN & BBMN. Tom from the BBMN is speaking and Sharon will call him about doing the show with him.

2) Yes the Conference planning is moving forward - it's happening in NYC, the brochures are here and will be included in our next newsletter mailing. Keynote speaker is Maggie R. (more on Maggie in future issues - Editor), still looking for facilitators.

3) The BBWN Fun(d)raiser is happening, only 3 more meetings until actual event. We need more energy Good stuff to be auctioned, Sharon doing refreshments.

4) Newsletter - Cost more for 1200 copies, \$285. We are getting more copies to cover the conference & Pride, etc.



5) Jean and Laura are pooped and NEED HELP DESPERATELY(!) or else the next newsletter issue may become a **REAL** issue. - What can we really do with the energy we have?

5) Mailing list - Purge in September.

6) Treasurer's mini-report, \$377.69, we owe ECBN for envelopes.

7) BBWN can use The Cambridge Women's Center non-profit bulk permit status. Can be used for women only. We (BBWN) would become an "affiliate" of the Women's Center.

8) "800" number (to be) application of use for BBWN to be decided at future meeting.

--Betty Aubut

(Edited by Laura Sachs)

CC MINUTES, APRIL 19, 1987:

Present: Robyn Ochs, Laura Sachs

1) WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?

2) We were definitely not happy that there were only two of us at this 'meeting'. However, we did discuss the upcoming Fun(d)raiser and the Fourth Annual Conference on Bisexuality.

3) Upon completing our discussion we "adjourned" for tea and "unofficial" chatting and reached consensus that getting enough sleep is definitely a necessity for a happy and healthy life.

-- Laura Sachs

(I was not in the greatest mood when typing this, but the feelings are (and were) definitely legitimate.)



*Casting Call!! Tired of
Dynasty and Dallas?
Here's your chance.....
Tell us your fantasy soap
opera dreams filled
with wild bisexual (men?)
& women. Write us.
Fiction can be stranger
than truth....more far?*

AIDS HOT LINE

The hot line phone numbers are (617) 536-7733 and 1-800-235-2331. The hot line is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.



Continued from page 1

During the summer and fall the number of women at the Sunday group ranged from 5 to 20. By winter, a steady group of around 15 women were coming. Jet began a second group that met on Saturdays. The focus of that group was more for older women, with less political content. The Sunday group had become self-defined as the "Feminist Bisexual Women's Support Group." The Mixed group at the SCCSM continued to meet. That group's facilitator, Roger Sorell, also began a support group for men only, in response to calls from men Jet had gotten from her ad in *The Weekly*.

The winter of 1985-86, the bi-group entered into a whirl of social activity. Beth and Ellen's house became the Bisexual House, with three bisexual housemates and meetings every other week. The house was a large turn of the century wooden house with lots of room, perfect for the preferred social activity of the group that winter - the slumber party.

Slumber parties involved pulling together as many women from the group as were game, and then planning lavish food spreads, the borrowing of VCRs and tapes, and more sugar than was good for any of us. Women would start to arrive around 8:00, dinner or some form of savory food would be prepared and everyone would make themselves at home.

One time the main course was roll your own sushi. At that party, we borrowed a VCR and various people brought samples of "lesbian erotica." Sadly, it was all so bad that only by running the tape in fast forward did it even begin to approach interesting. We decided that women's erotica might need a few years to get the bugs out.

At another slumber party we decided on a game of truth or dare. Sitting in a darkened room helped. Seattle had had one of its rare snows, and one woman actually accepted a dare to run naked into the snow and make a snowball.

By the winter of 1986 the Sunday women's group had moved to a 6:00 meeting time so that women could enjoy the sunshine. The Saturday women's

group kept to its afternoon time, and both groups took part in joint social activities. The SCCSM's Mixed group, the smallest of the three groups, still met every other Sunday, with some women from the women's groups also attending their meetings.

For Seattle's Gay Pride March, the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network and the Seattle Bisexual Support Network were both listed as supporters in the program guide and poster. The women's group made a banner in pink and blue that said "Seattle Bisexual Women's Support Network," which we marched with in the parade. The Mixed group had marched the year before as well, so in 1986 there were 2 bisexual groups marching with 2 banners, and about 15 marchers.

In the fall of 1986, a reporter with *The Weekly* approached all of the groups about doing a story on bisexuality. This began several months worth of interviews and dissatisfaction. The reporter, Jim Halpin, started out knowing nothing about bisexuality except that it contained the word sex. He didn't seem to get that much farther, despite numerous interviews with the women's groups, the men's group, and the mixed group, plus many longer interviews with individual members.

The article finally came out in the January 28, 1987 edition of the Weekly, to the distress of everyone. It was called "Encounters of the Fourth Kind," and it pictured bisexuals as people who were from dysfunctional families, who had often as not been sexually abused as children. It contained no positive portraits of women bisexuals, and featured such phrases as "like so many feisty women, she turns out to be petite." The impression was that of a murky sexuality hidden in odd corners. We were told that the Bisexuality edition was the second most requested issue they'd produced.

The article did galvanize all the groups into organizing a little more. After discussion about what women in the group wanted and what they were or were not getting from the bi-weekly support groups, we ended up with an alternate Sunday support group, a monthly Social, and a floating Feminist Discussion Group.

At this point, the Saturday (older women, less political) group folded. Jet had gone back to school and, with a small daughter, there was just not enough time.

(continued on page 7)



Dear BBWN,

Sounds like you folks are cooking. This is just to let you know what we're doing here in L.A.

This is a quick note to get this out with the rest of our mailing - more later.

Love your newsletter!!

Sylva

(Sylva is the editor of *By Choice*, a Los Angeles based newsletter, newly added to our BI GROUPS listing this issue, WELCOME!) - Editor

Dear BBWN:

Here's a check to renew my membership. I've added \$4 for three "Mobile Non-Smoking Area buttons.

Now that I live in Florida, I don't get to BBWN functions, but I still enjoy the newsletter. Considering the readership, I think that more AIDS information (and always the hotline number) should be included to ensure and maintain awareness and encourage rational choices. I've enclosed one brochure of Red Cross's series which could be excerpted as a beginning.

I've been living with a wonderful woman for over a year now and am active in the Lesbian community here. We have monthly pot luck and program meetings (called Salons) with well-known women entertainers, political activists, local talent, panel discussions.... May will bring Barbara Grier, author and publisher of Naiad Press, to speak. Attendance runs 65-90 women monthly. There are also special-interest offshoot groups of Salon called WEBs (Women's Energy Banks).

I am contemplating starting a Bi-WEB. I know it is risky due to some bi-phobia, but because I was instrumental in the birth of Salon, I just may get away with it. I'm sure there are other bi-women in Salon who need to be able to say the word out loud, to explore this aspect of their lives, and to feel accepted as they are. You can be sure I'll use things I learned at my own BBWN introductory meeting several years ago which were especially helpful to me.

Finally, I want to thank Christine C. (Reader's Forum, April-May 1987) for helping me know what to say. "Strictly speaking I'm bisexual, but for all practical purposes I'm gay," fits me too.

Keep up the wonderful work!

Pat L.
Bradenton, Florida

Dear BBWN,

Enclosed is the \$18.00 I.O.U. from tonight's fantastic, successful, funny, and super well-organized auction.

It was a special pleasure to see my photographs sold for the Network's benefit.

Thank you, thank you!

Love,
Sylvia

Dear BBWN,

I'm sorry this renewal is late. I don't want to be "dropped" (purged?) from your mailing list and hope you'll still accept the \$5.00 (underemployed) membership.

The newsletter has been (increasingly) wonderful. More original material - much better than reprints. (I keep thinking I'll sit down and write a piece - and I will sooner or later).

Thanks,

Stacie M.

(Sooner will make our hearts beat faster! - Editor)

Dear BBWN,

I am sorry it has taken me so long to send a donation to BBWN.

I sometimes feel that as a bisexual, I am a minority within a minority and do not get the support or information I need from gay and straight publications. The newsletter is nearly my only source for articles and information dealing exclusively with bisexuality. That is why I would like to continue to receive it despite the fact that I have moved to San Francisco and cannot be an active member. There is a Bi group in Berkeley that I hope to get involved with but until then BBWN is the only forum I have any access to.

One criticism: Perhaps more poetry and/or fiction in the newsletter? "Coming out" stories? I would send along some of my own poems but I'm not sure how appropriate or "positive" they are...

In sisterhood,

Paula O.

(Editor's reply: Dear Paula, (and all others who are reading this) we welcome and heartily encourage submissions (personal experiences, poems, articles of interest, fiction, etc.) to the newsletter. The only reason you're not seeing more poetry and stories is because they are not being sent in for us to print!)

METRO BOSTON WOMEN'S INSURANCE AGENCY

Helena Hantzes

69 Cedar Street
Somerville, MA 02143

(617) 628-8592

Reader's Forum

cont.

Dear people,

Thank you for sending us your newsletter. If you can continue to do so we would be very much in your debt. Our periodical collection is perhaps the best in North America and from it we have managed to get several bibliographies produced, especially on AIDS.

Our latest project is to try and begin a union list of serials for lesbian and gay publications. I have spent the last six years working on that listing, scanning other papers/newsletters and directories like Gayellow Pages, looking for titles and addresses.

It is only through organizations like yours, however, that our aim to continue to build up our periodical collection can in fact be a success. Thank you again for your donation.

Regards,
Alan V. Miller
Canadian Gay Archives

Dear BBWN,

How wonderful I remembered where I saw this advertisement. I am a petite, 39yo, Bisexual woman who would like to meet others like me. Please rush me the newsletter.

Thank you!
Deborah D.

(Anyone else out there from Richmond, VA?)



Newsletter Staff:

[REDACTED]; Co-Editor, Layout,
Artwork
Laura Sachs ; Co-Editor, Typing,
Calendar, Layout
Mary-Charlotte Domandi; Mail
Handling, Mailing
List Maintenance

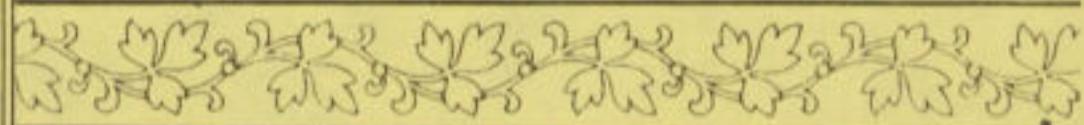
Contributors: Paula O., Sylvia S., Pat I., Sylva,
Robyn Ochs, Stacie M. Deborah D.,
Alan V. Miller, Beth Reba Weise,
Laura Sachs, [REDACTED]



7 Notes from All Over

NEWS FROM EDINBURGH

The Edinburgh Bisexual Group announces proudly the start-up of a bisexual helpline, to be run by and for bisexuals. This line will mainly service bisexuals in Scotland, but welcomes calls from elsewhere. The phone rental is being paid for by the Scottish Homosexual Rights Group. The hotline number is 031-557-3620 and will be staffed, by a man and a woman, every Thursday between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.



HONOR ROLL

Special thanks to the following women for time and energy generously given to the BBWN during the months of April and May, 1987.

Joan G.	[REDACTED]
Lucy F.	Laura S.
Karen H.	Nancy K.
Mary-Charlotte D.	Robyn O.
Sharon G.	Mirta P.
Lisa W.	Charnan B.

Extra special thanks to Robyn, Laura and Lisa for staying until after midnight to finish the mailing because there were not enough people.

Special commendation to Chris M. for her willingness to pitch in (at an ungodly hour) and help us get the newsletter stuffed and out.

(continued from page 5)

The Women's group arranged with the Lesbian Resource Center (LRC) and the SCCSM to be our message phones. We also have ongoing listings in the SGN under Community Resources, as well as in the LRC's monthly newsletter, and the Woman's Information Center's newsletter. Currently we're working on posting flyers around town.

The women's group is also meeting with the LRC to talk about putting on an educational forum titled "Lesbian and Bisexual: Commonalities and Differences" in June. The advantage of working with the LRC is that they are known and respected in the women's community and if their board agrees to co-sponsor the event, we should have a good turn-out. ■

Calendar

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June 1 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night, STUFFING THE NEWSLETTER!! DON'T MISS OUT!! You'll never have a greater opportunity to learn the mysteries of bulk mail. At Robyn's, 7:30pm, call BIS-MOVE for details.

June 6 (Sat) Alix Dobkin, Pratt Auditorium on the Mount Holyoke Campus, South Hadley, MA. \$7 gen., \$9 contrib., \$1 more @ door. Call New Moon Productions 413-586-8718 for details.

June 6 (Sat) Lesbian & Gay Pride March; "A Family of Friends", Portland, Maine, other events happening June 5 & 7, call Maine Pride info line, 207-883-6934.

June 8 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm, Call BIS-MOVE for details.

June 9 (Tues) "Town Meeting" co-sponsored by GLSB (Gay & Lesbian Speakers Bureau) and BLGPA (Boston Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance), 6:30pm, at Fanuel Hall (look for signs). The meeting will feature several speakers & discussions within and concerning the gay community.

June 13 (Sat) BBWN PRIDE BRUNCH! We invite All Women to join us at our annual (all-you-can-eat) pre-march munch! Community Church of Boston, 2nd floor, 565 Boylston St., (across from Copley Square) Wheelchair accessible, \$3.50, 9:30am-12:00, Be there or Be square! Call BIS-NOTE for details.

June 13 (Sat) Post-Brunch PARADE! Come march proudly with the BBWN contingent to Gay Pride. Get your BI-button and wear it with PRIDE! Hup 2-3-4, Hup-2-3-4! See you there! Call BIS-MOVE for details.

June 17 (Wed) GLSB(see June 9) Meeting, 7-9pm, 563 Mass. Ave., #4, Boston, Call Curt 267-0224 for details.

June 19 (Fri) Bernice Lewis and Marcia Deihl & THE OXY-MORONS, split the evening at the Modern Times Cafe, 134 Hampshire St., Cambridge, 9pm, \$4, info: 354-8371 Come early and get a good seat!!

June 20 (Sat) GLSB Training Session, "Speak for Yourself", 10:00am-4:00pm, U.Mass. Boston, Room 222, Park Plaza Campus, 100 Arlington St., Call 354-0133 for info.

June 21 (Sun) BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting, 6:00pm, HEY! GALS! C'MON & Check us out! EVERYONE welcome to participate in the direction of YOUR NETWORK! At SHARON'S, call 247-6683 for information

June 24 (Wed) Susan Farley & Janet Hood, upstairs at Ryles, Inman Square, Cambridge, 8:30 and 10:00pm, \$5 at the door.

June 27-28 (Sat/Sun) SISTERFIRE! A two-day open air festival in celebration of women artists. Theatre, dance, poetry, stage for deaf artists, humor, marketplace, music, storytelling, children's performance, childspace. Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, MD (outside Washington, DC) \$19/one day admit. (\$22/gate), \$30/weekend admit. (\$35/gate) Children under 12 free. More info: 202-483-1010 (TTY only: 202-234-9309) Produced by: Roadwork, Dept. SF, 1475 Harvard St., N.W., Washington, DC, 20009.

June 28 (Sun) ONGOING: ROCK AGAINST SEXISM holds disc parties (tea dances) the last Sunday of every month 6-10pm at the 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St., Boston. Everyone welcome \$2 suggested donation

June 29 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night, 7:30pm Yes, we do other things besides stuffing the newsletter. NO FOOLIN'! Odd and not-so-odd jobs that keep the network rolling! At Robyn's, call 247-6683 for details.

July 6 (Mon) August/September Newsletter d.e.a.d.-l.i.n.e. (We're waiting in anticipation....)

A MESSAGE TO ALL OF OUR READERS WHO ATTENDED THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON BISEXUALITY:

WE WILL BE INCREDIBLY HAPPY TO RECEIVE ANY AND ALL THOUGHTS, STORIES, EXPERIENCES, ETC., THAT YOU WISH TO SHARE ABOUT THE WEEKEND.

SO, C'MON, WE'RE EAGERLY AWAITING YOUR WORDS!

July 18 (Sat) The Northampton Area Women's Softball League will be celebrating its 11th year and 100 years of softball! Party will include a dance with D.J. Mary V. and promises to match last year's in providing a great evening of fun and "togetherness" in a women only space. (location to be announced) Call: New Moon Productions 413-586-8718 for details.

July 19 (Sun) BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting (see June 21 description) HOWEVER, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED. PLEASE CALL 247-6683 FOR THIS VITAL INFORMATION!:)

July 26 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism (please see June 28).

July 27 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night, TONIGHT WE PRESENT: "TO MAIL, OR NOT TO MAIL: BI-WOMEN GET STUFFED!" (How you say?) The August/September issue, a newsletter in 2½ acts, at Robyn's, 7:30pm curtain rises promptly, audience participation a must!

August 3 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, please see details of June 8, everything is the same. ALL WOMEN WELCOME. SPREAD THE WORD!! Call BIS-NOTE for info.

Aug. 12-16 (Wed-Sun) 12th MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL! An outdoor gathering of Womyn with Camping, Concerts, Crafts, Workshops, Film, Videos, and FUN!!! For brochure & ticket info send SASE to: WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla, MI, 49458, Festival location: Hart, Michigan.

Aug. 16 (Sun) BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting, please see details of June 21, all the same, EXCEPT, AT ROBYN'S (surprise!) 6:00pm, call 247-6683 for info.

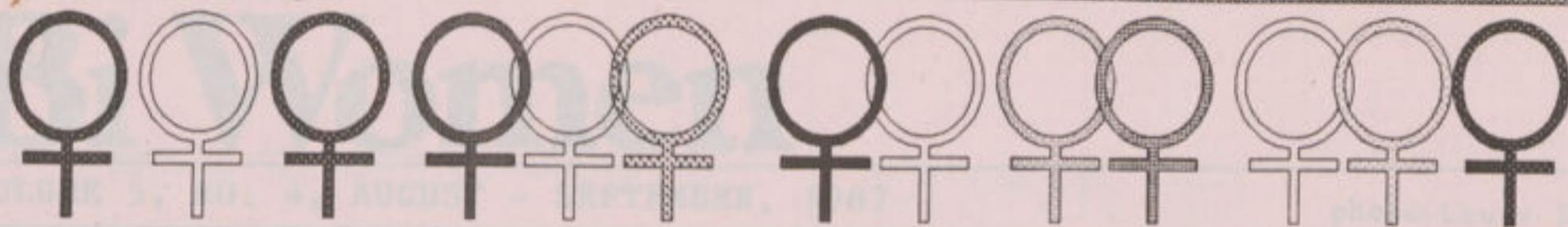
Aug. 24 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night, we're doing other stuff besides stuffing tonight (non-newsletter night) Come and socialize! At Robyn's 7:30pm, 247-6683 for details.

Sept. 4-7 (Fri-Mon) NEWMR!! 7th Annual New England Women's Music Retreat! U.R.I. (University of Rhode Island), West Greenwich, RI, Call 203-523-1268 for info, or write: NEWMR, P.O. Box 217, New Haven, CT 06513

Sept. 13 (Sun) FERRON, TAJ MAHAL, LIVINGSTON TAYLOR & more, 2 shows, 12 noon & 6:00pm (rain or shine) Presented by Folktree, Folktree Festival at the DeCordova, Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln, MA, advance sales: \$18.50 reserved seating, \$17.50 lawn seating, Call 641-1010 for info.

Every Wednesday: 7:30pm, Al-Anon Group for Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics. An Al-Anon meeting for Bisexual Adult of Children of Alcoholics meets Wednesday nights at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to the emergency entrance). For more info & directions, call Marge 617-259-1559.

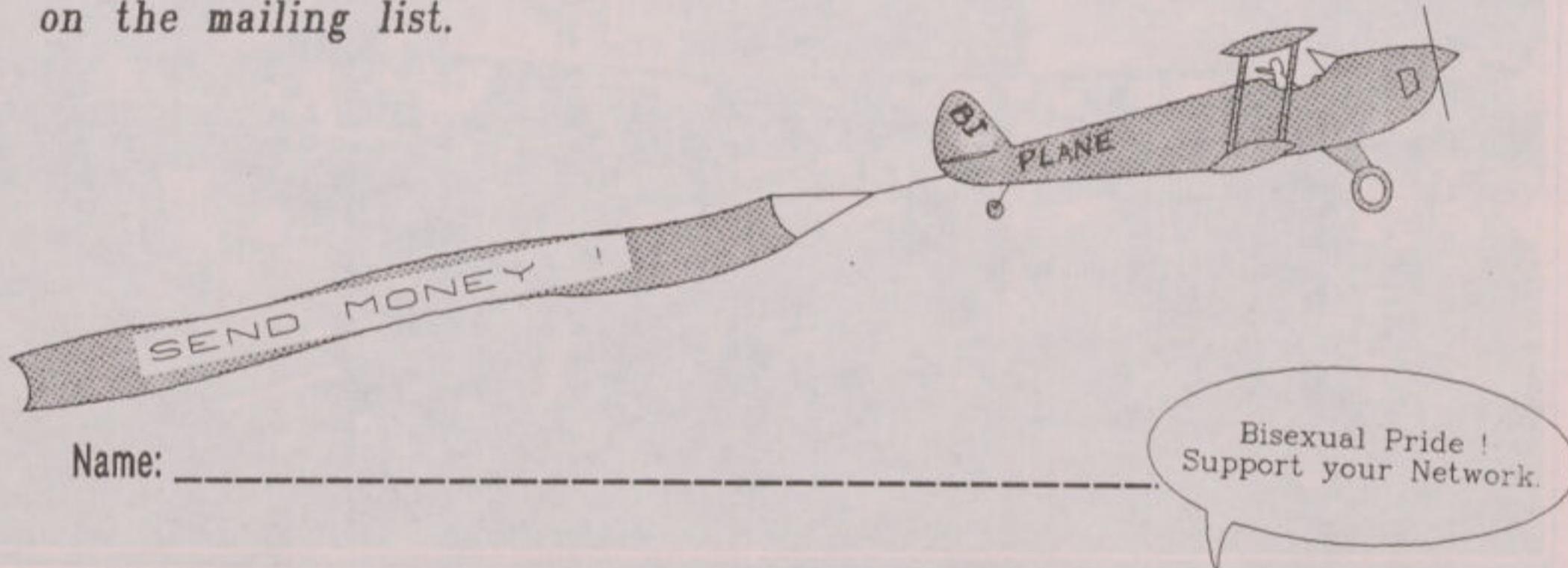




Guess what folks!

It's time for BBWN's annual fundraising/membership drive.
Our goal is to raise **\$3500** in dues and donations.

This is also the time of year when we "purge" our mailing list.
This means that you **MUST** mail in this form in order to remain
on the mailing list.



Name: _____

Bisexual Pride!
Support your Network.

Address: _____

Tel #: _____ Zip _____

I have enclosed my dues, good through 8/31/88, for the following:

\$7-13 Low Income

\$25-49 Sustainer

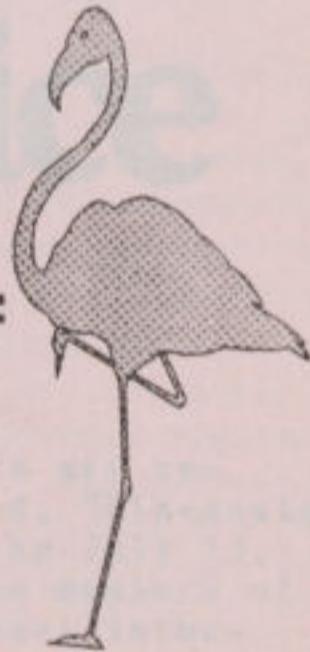
\$14-24 Regular

\$50+ Near Goddess

I honestly can't afford even the low income dues but want to
remain on the mailing list, so I have enclosed \$_____ (\$0-6)

I have enclosed an additional donation of \$

Please remove my name from the mailing list. Reason (optional):



Please return to BBWN, Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140.

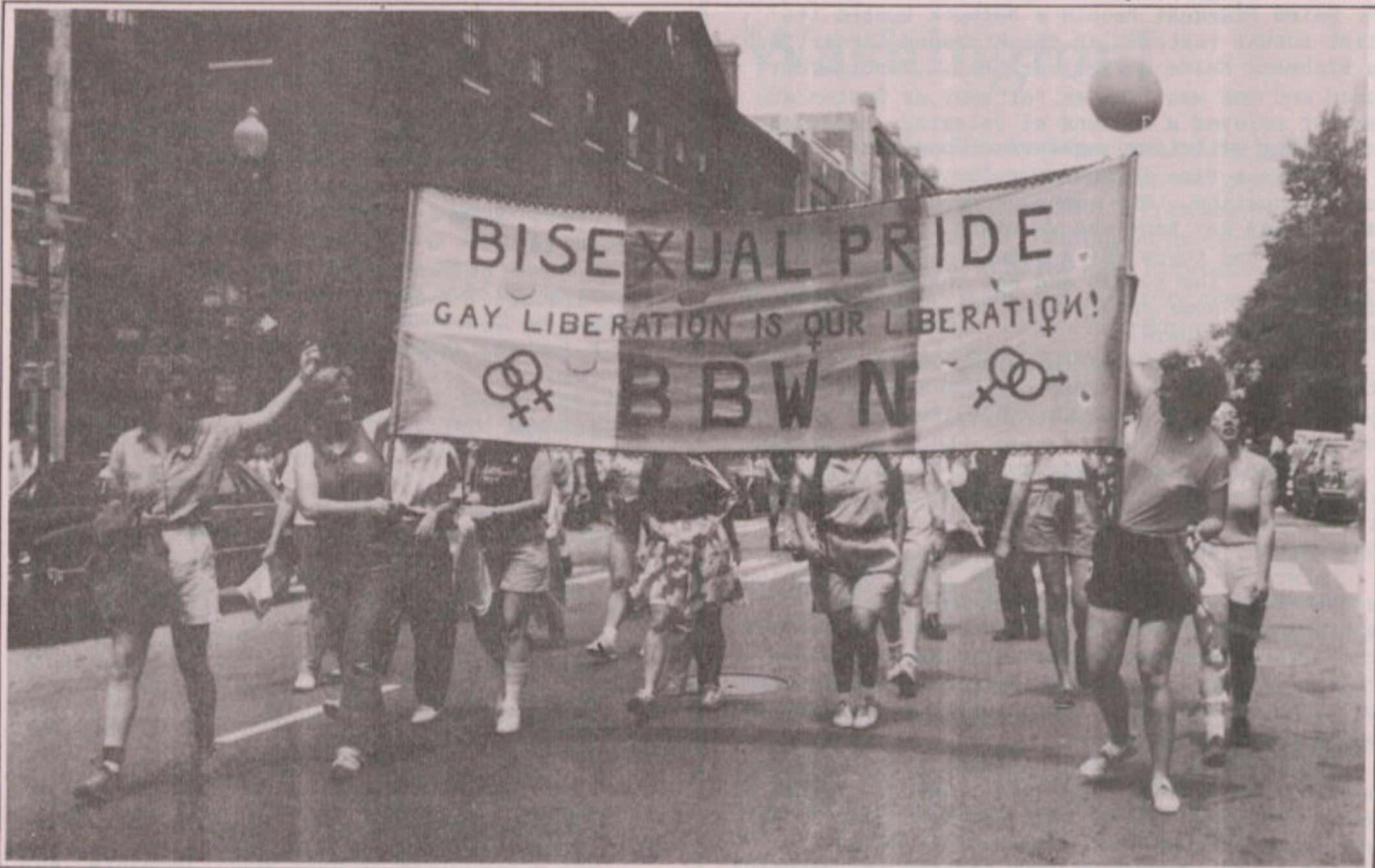
Bi Women

VOLUME 5, NO. 4, AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 1987

A Call to Bisexuals:

Second Issue with

photo: Laura Sachs



pride and prejudice

Pride Brunch & March

On Saturday, June 13th, BBWN had its' Fourth Annual Pride Brunch. This year we pigged out on bagels and cream cheese and a bountiful fruit salad that included blueberries and magnificent strawberries.

After the brunch a group of us made our way to the plaza in front of Boston City Hall at Government Center. (Due to a city snafu, the starting location of the parade was moved from Copley Square.) Once there (instead of being near the end of the parade as we have for the past few years) we moved into the midst of the parade. We were located behind the Boston Bisexual Men's Network contingent and in front of David Sondras' float. cont.on pg. 4

Newsweek

COMMENTARY:

The following two letters are responses to an article entitled, "Bisexuals and AIDS", that appeared in the July 13, 1987 issue of Newsweek. Three members of BBWN and two members of BBMN were interviewed in Boston.

All who were interviewed were either quoted out of context or not quoted at all. We were led to believe that the article was about Bisexuality, **not** Bisexuality and AIDS. We were very disappointed with what they did with the information provided.

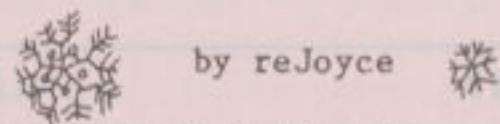
Please go to your libraries and read the article. Write us and tell us what

cont. on pg. 8

The newsletter of The Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

Maine Bisexual Retreat



by reJoyce

The Maine Bisexual People's Network hosted its first annual retreat at the Richmond Corner Sauna in Richmond Maine on February 6-8. Twenty-four women and one man from as far away as Boston and Amherst enjoyed a weekend of relaxing, relating, and eating delicious vegetarian food.

It was a time for us to relax and rejoice in our bisexuality. The serene country setting washed away any tensions we might have brought with us. And there was a wide choice of activities. The saunas and hot tub were highlights - some people even tried to spend most of their time there.

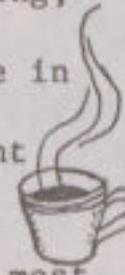
We lodged in an old farmhouse turned bed and breakfast - covering every bed and inch of floor space with people. But the joyful spirit made up for any discomfort.

Saturday's weather was spring-like. People cross-country skied on the freshly fallen snow. Others read, took walks, talked, played instruments, and even snuck in a nap.

Later on, we had an informal group discussion on "Non-traditional relationships." After mentioning our concerns, we broke up into smaller groups to concentrate on specific interests: Effects of labels, creating families, and married women and bisexuality. The group came up with some intriguing thoughts.

That evening in honor of Betty's birthday, we enjoyed a delightful cake extolling the virtues of female anatomy. And we sang rounds - some of us once again climbed into the hot tub, still singing. Then we rolled away the rug and danced.

The retreat concluded with a brunch and a Closing Circle. In the Closing Circle, people expressed very positive ideas and we shared the support, cooperation, and understanding which flowed throughout the weekend. Did we enjoy ourselves? You bet! The MBPN's First Annual Retreat was a huge success.

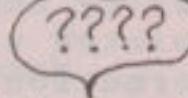


Nearest to me in my bed
Is a dyke with a soft fuzzy head
She has eyes all aglow
And fingers that know
How to make my cheeks blush a soft red!

- Tamara B
NYC

ADVICE TO AIDS ACTION COMMITTEE

The AIDS Action Committee has asked us if we have any advice for them or suggestions for work-shops etc. Any ideas? Please let us know what you would like to see happening.



"To male or not to mail?"



It has been BBWN's policy until the present to accept subscription requests from women only. A few men (most of whom have either worked closely with us organizing conferences and other events, or are representatives of other Networks that outreach to women) have been allowed to subscribe on a case-by-case basis.

Upon BBWN's inception, this policy was formulated as a commitment to provide women with a forum of expression that was to be women only space. The articles would only be written and read by women.

Over the years, this policy has evolved. Now, men can receive the newsletter for several reasons: those mentioned above; if we establish a newsletter exchange; or, when we distribute the newsletter at workshops, conferences and retreats attended by both men and women.

At present, we are continuing to treat requests for subscriptions from men on a case-by-case basis. However, we are now considering extending subscriptions to men upon request. We are doing this for a variety of reasons. The reasons include: men were offended at the conference when the newsletter was placed in a public area but they were asked specifically not to take a copy (this occurred due to a shortage of copies); individual men who want to keep current on Network activity; and, members of other Networks (especially BBMN) who are really interested in what we have to say.

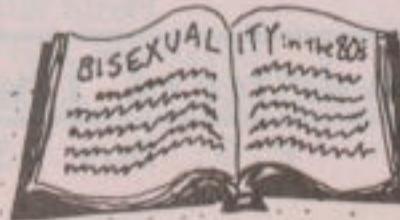
We would like to have your thoughts and feelings about making this change. Is it O.K. for newsletter to be available to: men at Bi-conferences, Bi-retreats, BBMN general meetings, Gay Pride?

Does this policy matter to you one way or another?

Please let us know. Thank you.
(See C.C. minutes page 8 for further information).

CALL FOR RESOURCES
by: Jean K.

We would like to put together a bibliography of books, magazine articles, newspaper articles, groups and resources that are about bisexuality. We'd like to have this available to give to new BBWN members, therapists, journalists and whom-ever else may contact us asking for other resources of information about bisexuality. Please send in copies of anything you have or the titles, author and publisher of any books. We look forward to hearing from you!



June 8, 1987

Governor Michael Dukakis
State House
Boston MA 02133

Dear Governor Dukakis,

This letter concerns the foster care controversy which has been brewing for the past two years. In 1985 you made a decision to remove two young children from the home of a highly qualified gay male couple and implemented a foster care policy which virtually excludes lesbians and gay men from becoming foster parents in the state of Massachusetts.

Shortly thereafter, in response to the resulting controversy, you appointed a special commission to study the topic and issue recommendations. Seven months ago the commission which you appointed issued a report which recommended, among other things, that the state select the best possible placement for children without regard to sexual orientation of potential parents, finding that sexual orientation was just one of numerous factors which might be relevant to an individual placement. This finding is consistent with professional opinion, which has consistently opposed the current policy of automatically excluding persons from consideration because of their sexual orientation.

Given the recommendations of the commission, and the fact that studies have consistently proven that households headed by lesbians and gay men are not detrimental to children, we hope that you will take the logical next step: rescind your policy in favor of a more rational one. Do not fall prey to homophobia and false prejudices. Let placement decisions be made by social workers on an individual basis, taking into account what is best for the children being placed.

As bisexual women, we are convinced that our ability to be loving, nurturing parents is unrelated to the gender of our partner. Good parents come in all sexualities - gay, lesbian, bisexual and straight.

Sincerely,

Robyn Ochs
Boston Bisexual Women's Network



A Call to Bisexuals: **March on Washington!**

On Columbus Day weekend, tens, maybe hundreds, of thousands of supporters of lesbian and gay civil rights are going to demonstrate in Washington, D.C. The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights is going to be the most impressive display of lesbian and gay pride and solidarity ever seen in this country. As bisexuals, can we afford to sit back and watch this event unfold on national tv? Not a chance. At last May's conference in New York, the East Coast Bisexual Network (ECBN) Steering Committee unanimously voted to sponsor a Bisexual Contingent. Now we just have to get out there and march on Sunday October 11th, and get out there as bisexuals.

Bisexuals are equally threatened by the anti-choice/anti-sex agenda of the Reagan Administration as are lesbians and gays. We confront the same hostilities, the same discriminations. The list of "demands" drawn up by the March organizers express many of our concerns, whether we choose to voice them as bisexuals or not. They are: 1) the legal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships; 2) the repeal of all laws that make sodomy between consenting adults a crime; 3) a presidential order banning anti-gay discrimination by the federal government; 4) passage of a Congressional bill banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; 5) an end to discrimination against people with AIDS or those perceived to have AIDS; massive increases in funding for AIDS education, research and patient care (money for AIDS not war); 6) reproductive freedom, the right to control our own bodies, and an end to sexist oppression; and, 7) an end to racism in the U.S. and Apartheid in South Africa.

Even though bisexual issues overlap with those of our homosexual friends, they aren't identical. We can't let gays and lesbians represent us in D.C. We have to go there ourselves, as bisexuals, to speak openly and vociferously as a separate and vital contingent. We must achieve some visibility on our own terms instead

(Continued on page 5)

METRO BOSTON WOMEN'S INSURANCE AGENCY

Helena Hantzes

69 Cedar Street
Somerville, MA 02143

(617) 628-8592

4 Reader's Forum

Dear BBWN:

Enclosed is \$10.00 for a membership for a friend of mine, Kim J.

Was it your last issue of the newsletter that included a list of the Bi-groups in the U.S.? If so, please start her subscription with that issue. Otherwise, could you send her a copy of that issue, and then start her subscription and shorten it by one issue? She's not aware of any Bi groups, so that particular issue seems important.

Thank you, and thanks for all of your good work. - Cindy C.

P.S. I mailed this to an old address first - P.O. Box 1534 in J.P., and it appears that the P.O. isn't forwarding mail there. My letter was returned to me - opened - inside another envelope with a typed message across the front, "The address you want is no longer at this box - DO NOT SEND IT HERE AGAIN!!!!" Seems like we're scaring somebody there!

Dear BBWN:

Here is my check for a renewal to the newsletter, under my pseudo name "Thomi." Find a check for \$7 enclosed.

I especially enjoyed the artwork on the cover of Vol. 5 #3. Who did the artwork? Would they consider submitting it to make a rubber stamp and/or cards? I would love to have some. Could make some money for BBWN.

Also loved the poem from N.Z.'s Maori woman. Keep the newsletter coming...thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomi in Jamaica Plain, MA

(I did the artwork on the cover and am just delighted you liked it. I'd be glad to have it used, provided you call me beforehand. Call BIS-MOVE (247-6683) and leave your name and phone # for me. We will arrange something. - Jean)

(Continued on page 6)

Pride March and Brunch Continued from page 1

As for the past two years our request for good weather was granted and this resulted in a fantastic turnout for the march! Pride organizers estimated that 40,000 people marched! (Ah, nothing quite like brilliant sunshine and sweating profusely but PROUDLY in downtown Boston.)

By the time we arrived on the Common, thousands of people were already there and the end of the parade had yet to clear the Arlington/Tremont Street intersection! We made our way to our information table (shared with BBMN) and by the time we arrived, there were already people seeking information about the networks. (We received numerous inquiries during the course of the day.) Our neighbors included: The Boston Center for Lesbians and Gay Men, The Boston Lesbian and Gay ↑

Gay Liberation... Is Our Liberation

ROBYN OCHS

I am so proud to be a part of the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community. I love our diversity, our creativity, our courage. A bisexual activist since 1983, I grow increasingly aware of the need for coalition building in our large and very diverse community.

On behalf of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network and the East Coast Bisexual Network, I want to put out that we are here, that we are part of you.

Some folks say that bisexuals are not oppressed because at least we are accepted by mainstream society when we are involved with members of the opposite sex. Agreed, society may like us when we show that piece of who we are. But conditional acceptance is not really acceptance at all. When we show our other side, our gay side, we suffer the same discrimination as other gay men and lesbians. We don't lose only half of our children in custody battles. When homophobia hits, we don't get just half fired from our jobs (put on half time, perhaps?). We don't get just half gaybashed when we are out with our same sex lovers ("Oh please, only hit me on my left side. You see, I'm bisexual"). We, too, get discriminated against BECAUSE WE ARE GAY.

The banner of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network says "Gay Liberation Is Our Liberation." When we all stand together we will be safe and strong.

22 • Out For Good • Pride 1987 From The Pride Guide

Please Note: No Treasurer's Report this issue - it will reappear next issue.

Political Alliance, and an array of jewelry and crafts tables.

While on the Common we had the opportunity to enjoy a great mixture of speakers and entertainers including (to name a few): The United Fruit Company (a radical/political Gay Men's Theatre Group), David Sondras (a Gay city councilor), Lucie Blue Tremblay (singer/songwriter/performer), and John and Josephine Politano (parents of a son who died of AIDS).

cont. on page 5

March on Washington

Continued from page 3

of passing as heterosexuals or gays. It's a matter of pride, and survival. Why travel to D.C. and melt into a homosexual affinity group or organization when you aren't gay or lesbian? Once we begin to publicly claim our bisexual identities, we will no longer go unacknowledged or left out. The very fact that the March wasn't called "The Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual March on Washington" is problematic, but only by organizing locally, regionally and nationally can we expect to see our bisexual rights protected and promoted.

Marching on Washington as bisexuals gives us our first opportunity to affirm our bisexual pride nationally. Plus, here's your chance to meet other bisexuals from around the country. For those of you who have been to regional bisexual events, you don't need convincing to socialize (cruise)?!

The Gay and Lesbian March on Washington event actually lasts five days, from October 9-13. Besides the big March on October 11, other important actions are planned such as a non-violent civil disobedience at the Supreme Court on October 13, a day of lobbying members of Congress on October 12, and a mass lesbian and gay "Wedding" on October 10. We can provide you with further details on the rest of lesbian and gay program, if you're interested.

So, what, specifically, needs to happen between now and October 11th? The work required to organize a Bisexual Contingent is finite, unintimidating and a

Pride March and Brunch

Continued from page 4

Thanks to: Charnan for coordinating another spectacular brunch, Laura for setting up the information table on the Common, to any and all women who helped out and participated, and to Robyn, who wrote on our behalf (see article on pg.) so we were acknowledged in the 1987 Pride Guide. Robyn also suggested to the Pride Committee that we (Bisexuals) be acknowledged during the event. We received one sentence of welcome. This is a very small start. Let's have a BISEXUAL SPEAKER on the dais next year - hmum!? (please send suggestions now so we can pass them on to next years Pride Committee.)

All in all, it was a beautiful day. We came out and marched with PRIDE, had presence, got good response from those we talked with, and even showed up on the front page of the Boston Sunday Globe the next day!!!

See you next year!

-- Laura Sachs

good time. In the Boston area, we need signmakers, transportation coordinators, publicizers, phone callers and envelope lickers. Outside Boston, the same. Plus, we need bisexual networks and individuals outside of Boston to get information about the Contingent 1) into the local gay/lesbian/feminist media; and 2) into the publicity of local/regional March committees. We need people outside of Boston to organize their own delegations and then communicate with the ECBN organizers to let us know how many bisexuals will be coming from your area. We need you to bring local signs (or a banner, if you have one). In Boston, we will provide the regional delegations with an exact meeting place and time in D.C.

That's about all we have to do. If you have other suggestions, let us know. Please get in touch if you'd like to plug into any of these tasks. The more people helping, both in Boston and nationally, the more people we'll get down there. Let us know what you might like to do, whether it's to help or to join a delegation. If you're from the Boston area let us know if you can give someone else a ride or if you need a ride. Below is a coupon you can send us.

Witness the birth of a national bisexual movement in Washington on October 11th! Whatever the size of the Bisexual Contingent, it will be a PROUD contingent. You can count on it.

Lucy Friedland (617) 734-9348

Liz Nania (617) 734-1672



- YEAH! A National Bisexual Contingent at the Lesbian & Gay March on Washington is a great plan! I'll help you organize it.
- YEAH! I'll march in the National Bisexual Contingent on October 11th. Please contact me with further details.
- MAYBE. Sounds good, but I don't know yet. Put me on the mailing list.
- I'll give financial support to the Contingent. Here's a donation of \$_____ to help with the organizing.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

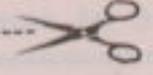
State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (home) _____

(work) _____

(Any phone calls will be made discreetly.)

MAIL TO: BBWN, c/o Liz Nania, 52 Garrison Street, Brookline, MA 02146. CALL: Liz at (617) 734-1672 or Lucy Friedland at (617) 734-9348.



6 Reader's Forum

cont.

Cont. from page 4

Dear BBWN:

My congratulations to Beth Weise for writing the article regarding "Bisexual Women of Seattle". It was well written and informative. However, there was one error: My last name is Tenley, not Tenly. Thank you for publishing the article.

During this time of the AIDS crisis, it's so important for all of us to be supportive, whether we are in or out of the closet. Poetry, prose, non-fiction articles and DONATIONS are the only way to keep our newsletters (as well as our communities) alive.

So many bisexual men and women complain there isn't much information or literature about Bisexuality available. We have to start somewhere, and your newsletter fills one of those gaps.

So, if you can't write, Donate! Whether it's time, energy or money.

Thanks!

For our survival,

Jet

Dear friends,

I have just moved from Cambridge to the vicinity of the Cape Cod Canal. I would like to join or start a support and social group for bi women in southeastern Mass. and/or the Upper Cape. Are you game? Please write to I.J. at: P.O. Box 1896, Cambridge, MA 02238.

Thank you,

I.J.

Dear BBWN,

Your work on the newsletter is very much appreciated. I regret that my work and school schedule (as well as the distance of my home from Cambridge) prohibits me from offering my services to the newsletter at this time. The least, or the best I can do is to send some money as a contribution to your efforts.

Keep up the needed and good work!

Sincerely,

Linda P.

(Your appreciation means a lot to us, thanks. We are glad we can make a difference in your life. Your contribution is helpful and very welcome. Good luck in school and keep in touch! - The Editors)

I'm a lesbian-identified BBWN member who'd like to join a support group. Does your group need new members or would you like to start one? All kinds of bi women welcome. Call Stacie 491-3789.

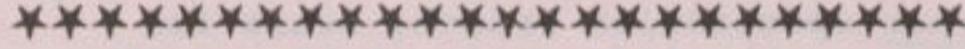
Dear BBWN,

I was hoping lots to get a long letter or article written to go in this next issue... but I'm not going to make it. In ten days my family and I are leaving for California. You - BBWN - have been very important to me and I want to stay connected. I WILL get something written one of these days. I definitely want to remain a BBWN member... you never know which way the wind will blow next.

Meanwhile, if anyone knows of possible connections in the Bay Area, please could you drop me a line, c/o Mercer, 201 Andover, San Francisco, CA 94110. I'll be connected to Biwomen there but will always remember you with immense thanks for your help and comradeship. It was with you that I found Bi and I thank you.

Love and Best wishes,

(Dear [REDACTED]: We are sorry to see you go and will miss you. But, we're glad to hear you'll stay connected even via long distance. I hear carrier pigeons are fairly easy to keep. Seriously, however, please see the notice elsewhere in this issue about the newly formed Bay Area Bi Women's Group. Please also check your last two issues of the newsletter, as all groups that we are currently aware of are listed.)
--- The Editors.

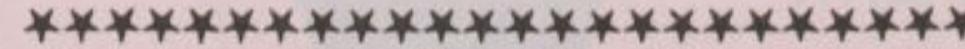


Newsletter Staff:

Laura Sachs: Co-editor, Calendar,
Typing,
[REDACTED]: Co-editor, Layout,
Artwork

Mary-Charlotte Domandi: Mailing List
Maintenance Mail Handling,

Nancy K.:	Typing
Robyn Ochs:	Typing
Mirta P.:	Typing
Stacie:	Editing/Rewrite
Ruth K.:	Layout



Notes from All Over

The ten year old boycott of Coors beers continues. The most recent sign of the growing boycott is the decision by Fenway Park officials in Boston, home of the Boston Red Sox, to discontinue sale of Coors beer at the stadium. Gay Boston city council member David Sondras said that "Boston baseball fans should not be subsidizing a terrorist war in Central America, nor should they help support a family (Coors) that is dedicated to attacking the rights of gay people, blacks, women and unions."

The family-controlled Adolph Coors Brewing Company gives thousands of dollars to a variety of far-right groups. When you purchase Coors beers your money ultimately helps finance Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum, a tax-exempt New Right humanitarian and Contra "support group"; the John Birch society; the Moral Majority; plus several other right-wing groups whose work is aimed at stopping any efforts by gay/lesbian groups to gain civil rights, among other issues. (from Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué, Caribou, ME)

EDINGURGH BISEXUAL CONFERENCE:

The Fifth British National Conference on Bisexuality will be held in Edinburgh over the weekend of Oct. 17th & 18th. Organized by the Edinburgh Bisexual Group, the conference will feature a range of workshops on issues concerning bisexuals and their allies. The Saturday evening will consist of a disco and other entertainment.

Edinburgh Bisexual Group
Lesbian & Gay Centre
58a Broughton St.
Edinburgh, Scotland

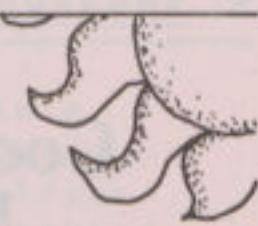
MARRIAGE AND BISEXUALITY

The ongoing social/support and study group for married bisexual women (and those women dwelling on the issue) is reorganizing, branching out, and welcomes new members. (women who are not married but in long term relationships with men are welcomed too). You are not alone!

Discretion is our first concern!!

For more information, please call 247-6683 and leave your name & phone# or address, specifically for Mirta.

LET'S GET SOCIAL



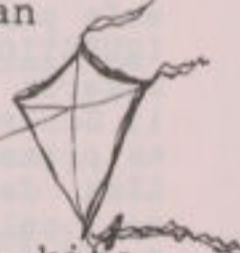
WEEKEND TRIPS:

Jean wants company on outdoor trips: Kayaking, canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc. Call 247-6683 and leave your name & phone number specifically for her if you are interested.



POTLUCKS PLURAL & HOLIDAY PARTIES:

Pick a date for OCT/NOV/DEC., and volunteer your home for a potluck dinner/party. Meet new people and reconnect with friends and have a BLAST! Information needed by * AUGUST 31st. Plan ahead and have an evening(s) to look forward to!!! * (Newsletter Deadline)



POTPOURRI:

Anyone for miniature golf, bowling, kite-flying, croquet, etc. Call 247-6683 and leave your name & phone number specifically for Laura if you are interested.



Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

C.C. Meeting Minutes June 1, 1987

Present: Nancy K., Sally W., Robyn O., Sharon G., Laura S., Carol S., Lisa W., [REDACTED], Mirta P.
Note: 1. a-i - See article on page 2)

- a) Lisa wanted to talk about men, re: our policy on who reads/receives Bi Women. They won't understand what we're doing unless they know about us.
- b) Sharon said some BBWN members want to attend our stuffs and would like to have copies of Bi Women for their general meetings.
- c) Laura: Have 1 issue per year set up to be seen by men? (Lisa expressed concern we not cater to men.)
- d) We reviewed current policy and then approved 3 bisexual men for the mailing list.
- e) Robyn mentioned that all "weird" phone calls to the network have been from men.
- f) [REDACTED] and Laura: Newsletter as confidential, women-only space - would less women write in if more men reading it?
- g) Nancy: Explained policies for Inner Voices (newsletter for women of color; their issue, substitute white women for men.)
- h) Lisa concerned if jokes or articles offensive to men - we wouldn't look good - important not to trash men. [REDACTED] noted we need a safe place to express negatives about men.
- (QUESTION: Do the men worry about this in regards to women who read their newsletter?)
- i) General consensus: Must be aware of how we present ourselves. More opinions needed; Lisa, [REDACTED] and Laura wrote article. Our present policy stands.
- 2. M-C (Mary-Charlotte) has resigned as keeper of the mailing list, Sherrie St. J., is taking over. We requested her to attend the next CC meeting so we could meet her.
- 3. Laura asked for help at Intro. meetings. M.C. will be missed - Editors) Nancy and [REDACTED] volunteered for 2 each, Robyn and Mirta volunteered for 1 each. Problem solved for next year. YEAH, RAH! (Laura ever so happy!)
- 4. A bug was found crawling on the couch, and it was killed by consensus.
- 5. Newsletter: Dues time again and time to purge mailing list. Those who don't pay or explain after 2 requests will be deleted. We considered requiring or suggesting work exchange as part of dues. This would bring in needed volunteers. Only 1/3 of women on mailing list currently paying dues and this constantly leaves us in financial trouble! It costs \$2500.00/year to produce & mail newsletter alone!
- 6. [REDACTED] tired of putting newsletter together and wants to write and do drawings for it instead. (LAURA about to faint!) She wants to invite others to help out one or two evenings/month. PLEASE help us! Call BIS-MOVE and leave a message.
- 7. Nancy K. volunteered to look into getting non-profit status for BBWN.

(Continued from page 1)

you think. Please write to Newsweek and send us a copy of your letter. Although it will be beyond the date that Newsweek prints responses to articles, it is important for them to hear from us! (There will be further commentary in the October/November newsletter.)

--- Laura Sachs

Letters to Newsweek

July 17, 1987

Newsweek
444 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Attn: Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I was surprised and disappointed to see your article entitled, "Bisexuals and AIDS" in the July 13, 1987 issue of Newsweek. As a member of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network (BBWN), I was interviewed and photographed for the article, but not accurately, nor fairly represented. Much of your article refers to closeted, married, and sexually irresponsible bisexual men. They are not representative of the bisexual community as a whole.

continued on page 9



Honor Roll

Special thanks to the following women for time and energy generously given to the BBWN during the months of June and July, 1987:

Stacie S.	Laura S.
Lisa W.	Sharon G.
Mary-Charlotte D.	Stacy S.
Robyn O.	Charnan B.
[REDACTED]	Nancy K.
Mirta P.	Carol S.
Ruth K.	Sally W.

Extra thanks to all women who helped w/ the Brunch, and all the women who marched in the BBWN contingent at Gay Pride and SUPER THANKS to those women who carried our banner proudly!!!

CONTRIBUTORS: Pam, Marcia, [REDACTED], Lisa W. Cindy C., Laura Sachs, Robyn Ochs, Joyce, Jet Tenley, Liz Nania, Thomi, Kate C., Lucy Friedland, Tamara B., Marie



Continued from page 8

Bisexuals do not have a "lack of organizational ties". There are over thirty individual organizations of bisexual people in the U.S. and one each in Edinburgh, Scotland, Amsterdam, Holland, London, England, and Herford and Frankfort, West Germany. You had this list of addresses when I interviewed with you.

You state that, "these people [Bisexuals] are not going to come forward under any circumstances." That is false. You got in touch with our network, the Boston Bisexual Women's Network, and three of us were glad to be interviewed. We did come forward. More men are closeted than women, but only because our society accepts bisexual women more easily than bisexual men.

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network does a lot more than "overcoming a lack of understanding". We are a group of about 850 women. We give talks at universities, women's centers and youth groups to educate people about bisexuality. We run social and outdoor events, connect women who want to form discussion and support groups, and run conferences. We exchange newsletters with gay, lesbian and bisexual groups worldwide, and produce our own newsletter every two months. I am one of the editors.

I am not "the ultimate pariah," nor "the ultimate libertine" that you accuse me of being. By definition, I would never sleep with a gay man, nor would I sleep with an intravenous drug user.

Like many other women in the network, I am knowledgeable and conscientious about safe sex practices. Therefore, I am NOT in a high risk group for contracting AIDS. I am out to my family and my partner, and they are supportive. I am not living "a dangerous double life". I am proud of who I am and am not "seeking to change".

Some bisexuals are monogamous. Some are not. However, bisexual people are no more likely to be promiscuous than any other group of people, contrary to your article.

There has been a significant change in sexual behavior in the gay and bisexual communities in response to AIDS. People have educated themselves about safer sexual practices and most have taken responsibility to hold to them at all times. I wish the same were true of the straight population. There are indeed some irresponsible bisexual men out there, and it appears that you found most of them for your article. However, I was sorry to see that you did not acknowledge the majority who have been very conscientious.

I am not a "tortured soul in a wretched situation". I am happy and healthy. I have the courage to break stereotypes and redefine relationships to fit who I am.

Lastly, let us not continue to point fingers to find a scapegoat for AIDS, as your article does. It creates fear, gives misinformation, and perpetuates stereotypes. It solves nothing. Let us all bond together to fight this terrible disease, and not each other.

Sincerely,

July 10, 1987

Newsweek
444 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Attn: Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

In the interest of combating negative and false stereotypes about bisexual people, I consented to be interviewed and photographed for an article in Newsweek about bisexual lifestyles. During my interview, I devoted considerable attention to a definition of bisexuality (the potential for being sexually and/or romantically involved with members of either gender), emphasizing that bisexuals are not by definition promiscuous, non-monogamous, or sex-crazed. Some bisexuals may be so, but then too are some heterosexuals and some homosexuals. I discussed my own lifestyle, which is monogamous. I also devoted considerable time to the establishment in recent years of over thirty bisexual support organizations in the United States. My own organizations, the Boston Bisexual Women's Network and the East Coast Bisexual Network, boast over 850 and 2,000 members respectively. (More information about groups in the U.S. can be obtained by calling (617) 247-6683.)

I was quite surprised and angered to read the resulting article, entitled "Bisexuals and AIDS: The Dangers of a Double Life." This article dubbed bisexuals "the ultimate pariahs," and focused on comments by therapists about married, closeted bisexual men who engage in anonymous homosexual encounters. These quotes, due to the poor quality of the article, were then, by extension, supposed to refer to

Letters to Newsweek continued on page 10

Calendar

Aug. 3 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm. Call 247-6683 for details. ALL WOMEN WELCOME. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

Aug. 4 (Tues) Gay & Lesbian Defense Committee Visibility Days (these are a series of events) JUKEBOX (Boston, Tremont St.); Motown music & dancing. No covercharge, dress code: NO blue jeans, NO sneakers, NO t-shirts. Meet inside @ 9:00pm. Via public trans.: Green line to Boylston, walk 2 blocks down Tremont or orange line to South Cove stop (it's across the street)

Aug. 10 (Mon) Gay & Lesbian Speakers Bureau General Meeting, 7-8:30pm. Meeting will be at Bill B's house, please call 354-0133 for more information and directions.

Aug. 15 (Sat) BBWN goes to WALDEN POND, 10:00am to ? Look for signs of Bisexuals (small purple pendants) to the left of the public beach. (You may have to walk around part of the pond to find us, but we'll be there!) Driving: Rt. 2 west, left onto 126, left at 1st entrance, pass guardhouse, park. To carpool, call 247-6683 and leave your name and number (and message) for LAURA. (Raindate: August 16)

Aug. 16 (Sun) BBWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING: Time to reconnect as July meeting did not take place. C'mon and check us out!! **EVERYONE** welcome to participate in the direction of **YOUR NETWORK**. **VERY IMPORTANT!** At Robyn's, 6:00pm. Call 247-6683 for information.

Aug. 20 (Thurs) Pot-Luck Dinner at JEAN'S, Beacon Hill, 6:00pm. Dancing at Somewhere Else afterwards. Call BIS-MOVE for information. Please leave your name and phone number for JEAN.

Aug. 23 (Sun) BBWN goes to Randolph Country Club, @ 1:00pm to sit around or in the pool, eat barbecue (not included in covercharge), and boogie! \$5.00. Call JEAN to RSVP 247-6683. Please call to confirm and share rides.

Aug 24 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT, 7:30pm, Yes, indeed there are other things to do besides stuff newsletter (THERE IS, THERE IS!) Not-so-odd and odd jobs that keep us rollin' along. At Robyn's, call 247-6683 for details.

Aug. 30 (Sun) ONGOING: Rock Against Sexism holds disc parties (tea dances) the last Sunday of every month 6-10pm at the 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St., Boston. Everyone welcome, \$2 suggested donation.

Aug. 31 (Mon) D...E...A...D...I...N...E. (dum dum de dum dum de dum de dum) (You figure it out) for the October/November Newsletter!!!

Sept. 4-7 (Fri-Mon) NEWMR!! 7th Annual New England Women's Music Retreat! U.R.I. (Univ. of Rhode Island), West Greenwich, RI, Call 203-523-1268 for info., or write: NEWMR, PO Box 217, New Haven, CT 06513.

Sept. 13 (Sun) FERRON, TAJ MAHAL, LIVINGSTON TAYLOR, 2 shows, 12 noon & 6:00pm (rain or shine) Call 641-1010 for information.

Sept. 19-20 (Sat/Sun) **TENTATIVE:** Bisexual Women BOOGIE IN P-TOWN. Call 247-6683 if you are interested in any way, shape or form!! Call & leave a message (include name & phone number) for JEAN.

Sept. 21 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT, HI HO, HI HO, IT'S OFF TO STUFF WE GO!!! NEWSLETTER night tonight. Don't miss out! We always have a great time! (Promise: NO INSERTS) at Robyn's 7:30pm, Be there or be square, call 247-6683 for details.

Sept. 26 (Sat) Gay & Lesbian Speakers Bureau Training Session, please call 354-0133 for any and all details.

Sept. 27 (Sun) BBWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING, See details of August 16, all details the same.

Sept. 27 (Sun) ROCK AGAINST SEXISM, see details of August 30, all details the same.

Oct. 5 (Mon) BBWN INTRODUCTORY MEETING, see details of August 3, all details the same.

Every Wednesday: 7:30pm, AL-ANON GROUP FOR BISEXUAL ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS. An Al-Anon meeting for Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics meets Wednesday nights at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency entrance). For more info & directions, call Marge (617) 259-1559.

Letters to Newsweek

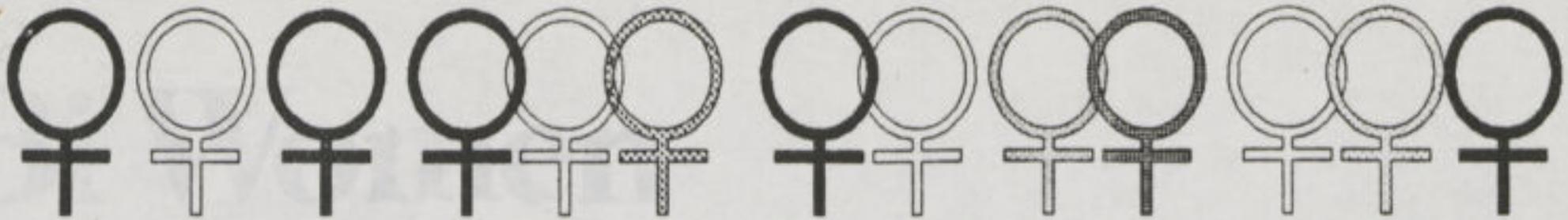
Cont. from page 9

bisexuals in general, ignoring the fact that the quotes were referring to and applicable to only a small proportion of all bisexuals.

I was most enraged by the article's ending: "Any thaw in relations [between bisexuals and everyone else] is not likely to happen ... as long as many straights and gays are discussing AIDS candidly with their partners while bisexual men often don't tell the truth - even to themselves." I think the reality is somewhat different. Many bisexual people, especially those of us who are active in the gay/lesbian community which has been the vanguard of AIDS education, have been educated about AIDS and are practicing safe sex. I am afraid that it is the majority of heterosexuals who are still operating under the false assumption that AIDS is someone else's disease.

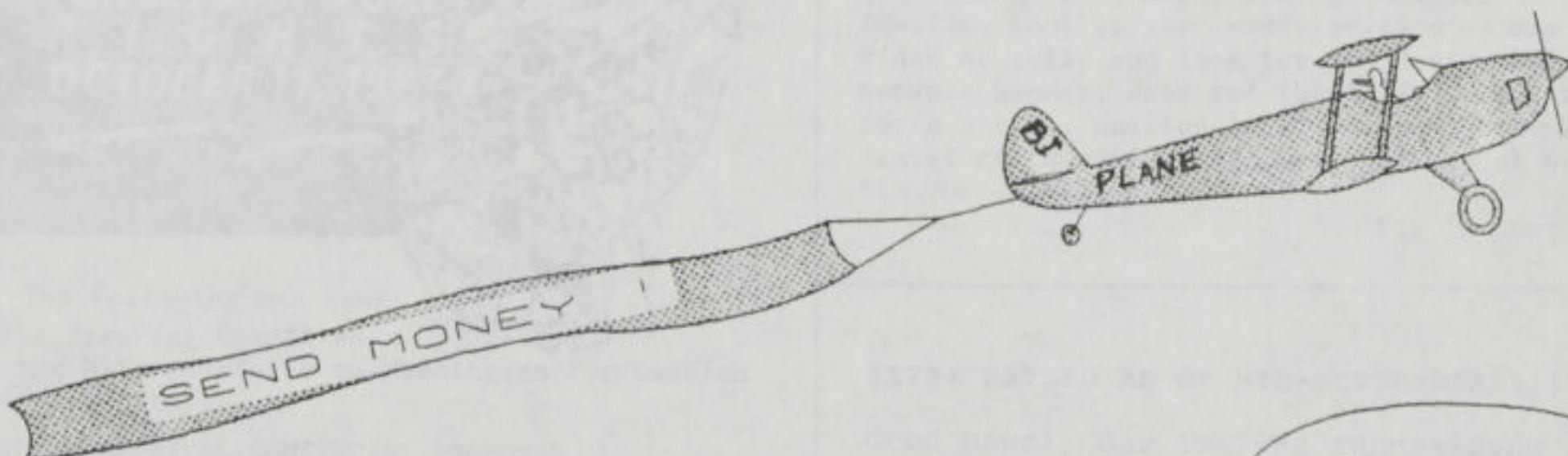
I hope that the next time Newsweek decides to cover bisexuality, more attention is given to careful and accurate reportage. Hysterical, erroneous reporting may sell more issues of Newsweek but does a tremendous disservice to everyone.

Sincerely,
Robyn Ochs



Guess what folks!

It's time for BBWN's annual fundraising/membership drive.
Our goal is to raise **\$3500** in dues and donations.



Name: _____

Bisexual Pride!
Support your Network.

Address: _____

Tel #: _____ Zip _____

I HAVE ENCLOSED MY DUES, GOOD THROUGH 5/31/89, FOR THE FOLLOWING:



\$7-13 Low Income



\$14-24 Regular



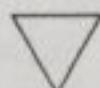
\$25-49 Sustainer



\$50+ Near Goddess



I honestly can't afford even the low income dues but want to
remain on the mailing list, so I have enclosed \$_____ (\$0-6)



I have enclosed an additional donation of \$



Please remove my name from the mailing list. Reason (optional):



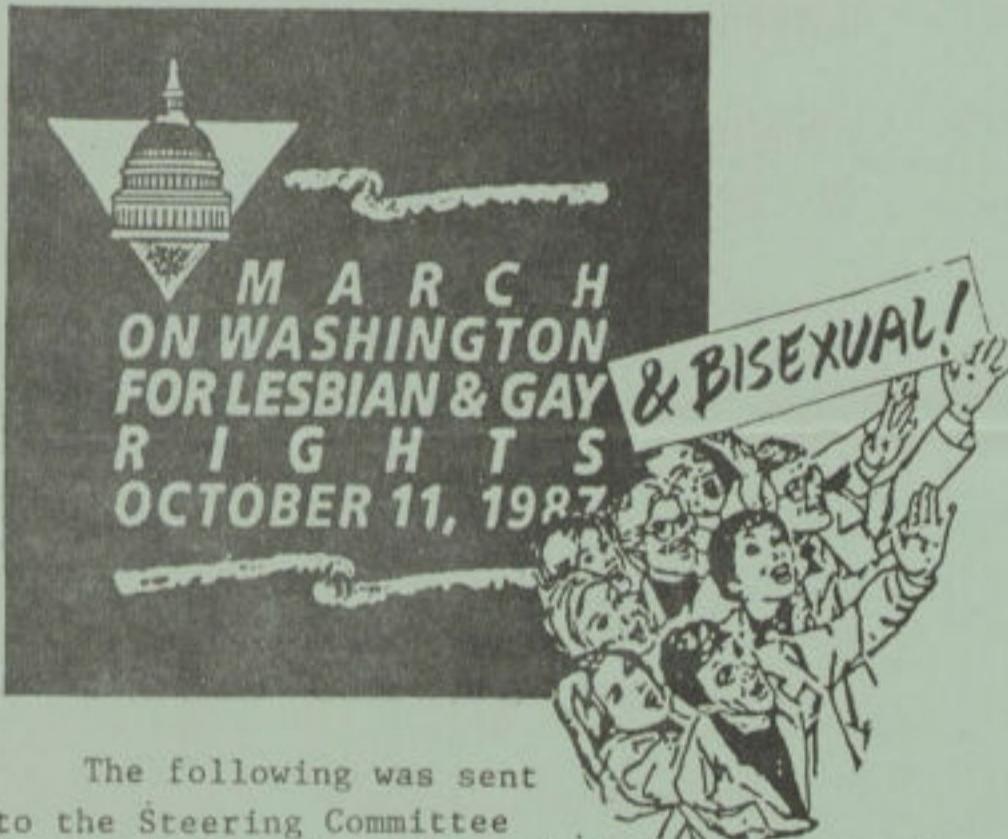
Please return to BBWN, Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140.

Bi Women

1

Volume 5, Number 6, October - November, 1987

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140



The following was sent to the Steering Committee for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights:

NATIONAL BISEXUAL CONTINGENT PROPOSAL

The East Coast Bisexual Network is a coalition of bisexual organizations and individuals.

Our purpose is to build a supportive community for bisexual people.

We do outreach and education to bisexuals and the public via the following activities: social events, workshops at universities and for other groups, conferences, retreats, a speakers bureau, and newsletters. (BBWN, the Boston Bisexual Women's Network, has a mailing list of over 900.)

These activities are sponsored by individual groups within the ECBN. All existing organizations within and including ECBN are not-for-profit volunteer groups.

Throughout, we have been visible (e.g., marching in Boston's Gay Pride March since 1983) and lobbied for political and social change.

The East Coast Bisexual Network is committed to working with other members of the lesbian and gay communities to eliminate homophobia and achieve equal rights for all lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

We are requesting official recognition as a contingent for the National March on Washington. We are in contact with over thirty other bisexual networks nationwide regarding the march. The march will be a focal point for the inception of a national bisexual network.

---Written & edited by Laura Sachs, Robyn Ochs, [redacted], Liz Nania

FINAL BI-CONTINGENT UPDATE!!!

Make herstory! The Bi-Contingent needs you! Besides marching with bisexuals from all over the country, you can meet 'n talk with them at the fabulous pre-march BiGathering on Sunday, Oct. 11 from 8:15 to 10:15 in Washington. Call 734-9348, 734-1672 or BIS-MOVE for exact location. If you can't attend the gathering, meet us at the Ellipse (pre-march rally site) Sunday, October 11 between 10-11am. Look up our exact location on map provided at rally and look for the National Bisexual Network banner. Wear red (black is secondary color) for a strong, unified look! For any last-minute travel coordinating info, call Eileen at 665-8784. SEE YOU THERE!!

Liz 'n Lucy

\$1724 RAISED AS OF MID-SEPTEMBER!!!!!!

Good news! Our 1987-88 fundraising & membership drive is off to a good start. As of mid-September, we are almost halfway to our \$3500 goal.

To those who have sent in dues and donations - THANK YOU!

To those who haven't gotten around to it yet, please take advantage of the membership form located right here in your newsletter!



DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS! OPPOSE REAGAN'S SUPREME COURT NOMINEE



Boston Committee to Defeat Bork
971 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, MA 02215
Telephone 782-1056 ← call them!

The newsletter of The Boston Bisexual Women's Network

Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

2

CC Meeting Minutes June 21, 1987:

Present: Stacie, Laura, Jean, Sharon, Lisa
1. BBWN owes ECBN \$20.00 for Pride table.
This includes \$10.00 donation.
2. Jean wants to do outdoor activities with
other network members. Some suggestions:
Have a dance, weekend in P-Town, go to Walden
Pond and Randolph Country Club. (PLEASE
check out CALENDAR, as some of these are in
there -- Editors)
3. Continued discussion re: ways to draw in
more people to work for the network - see
October/November newsletter for more details.
4. Short talk about Boston Center for Lesbians
& Gay Men (community center). BBWN may be
interested in using space there (to be con-
tinued).

-- Laura and Jean

TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

BET MACARTHUR, ACSW LICSW
COUNSELING, PSYCHOTHERAPY
CONSULTATION & TRAINING

14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

Paper Castles

Because my grandmother refused to die
death took her inch by inch

child-like, she ran screaming
through the night corridors
convinced she was pursued by the mad Queen

stubbornly, the house in which she lived
also refused to give in, though it leant
as if for support, on its neighbour

at the chase's end
the house played the wind
one last note — long and aching —
on its wooden keyboard

then it simply folded
in upon itself with a sigh
like the closing of a book
or the collapsing of a castle
made of playing cards.

Work Of Fiction

today, when birds & flowers rise
bubbling to the spring's surface

I join the lunchtime strollers
(my daughter's dog beside me)

& a man in overalls pauses to pat
the small, white animal & talk

& all the while he's looking at me
— this could be Chekov's tale . . .

he wants to know if I'm unattached
I look down at the dog on the lead

discover a literary device —
myself, talking to a stranger



Thank-You Note (so very politically correct it had to be included....)

It wasn't the food
though there were oysters
or the wine
a vintage surpassed by none
or your company
charming as always
it was the thought
of you paying for it
that really turned me on . . .

- by Vivienne Joseph, a New Zealand poetess from, A Desirable Property .

Following is a list of types of work we need help with. Please check below any work you might be interested in doing. Some types involve very little work, others more. But please, check something.

- Volunteer night (come stuff newsletters, answer mail, type, file, make phone calls, work on projects, etc.) Volunteer nights happen monthly, except December, on the last Monday of each month. Come to one or all.
- Newsletter (write, edit, type, design, take charge of a section [calendar, ads, etc]). Two evenings a month. We NEED help and it is easy to learn!! Join us!
- Social events (help organize a social event - a dance, party, potluck, roller skating, etc.)
- Leadership (come to a Coordinating Committee meeting. Everyone's welcome. We want to hear new opinions. Or, if you want, just come listen.)
- Typing (people are needed to type up the newsletter, on a one-time basis or regularly).
- Telephoning (people are needed to call up women who have indicated interest to remind them about volunteer events that are happening and to respond to Network phone calls)
- Dance Party/Auction (help organize next year's [January or February] Fun(d)raiser)
- Conference (Help organize next spring's 5th Northeast Regional Conference on Bisexuality which will be held in Boston next year)
- Introductory meetings (co-facilitate the BBWN Intros)
- Treasurer (a couple of hours of accounting and checkwriting each month, and we would prefer it if you would attend the CC meetings)
- Connections Can you provide for free or at cost any essential services or supplies to BBWN, i.e. copying, party supplies, etc? Explain: _____

Other (you name it): _____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Discretion? Y n

Please mail to BBWN, Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140. Thanks for taking the time to help.

"Step by step the longest march
Can be won, can be won
Many stones can form an arch
Singly none, singly none
And by union what we will
Can be accomplished still
Drops of water turn a mill
Singly none, singly none"

One of our fondest fantasies is to become a true collective effort, with dozens of women joining together to make BBWN happen. BBWN is entirely a volunteer organization. That means that things get done only when someone like you volunteers to do them. And we do need your help.

Me, we hear you cry, how can I help? I'm not a leader, I'm too busy, I just don't have time, I hate organizing things, I'm too shy...

How about this: CAN YOU GIVE AT LEAST ONE EVENING IN THE NEXT YEAR (a year is a long time) TO HELP OUT YOUR NETWORK?

PARADE'S SPECIAL

Intelligence Report

In Memoriam

Barry Stanton Kohn, gay and bisexual activist, lawyer, and co-author of Barry and Alice: Portrait of a Bisexual Marriage (Prentice Hall, 1980) died of AIDS on June 2 at age 44. Kohn also founded in 1976 a support group in Philadelphia for gay and bisexual married men which is still functioning today. As a lawyer, Kohn fought for civil and gay rights and in 1975 was appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania to monitor the state's efforts to end discrimination against sexual minorities and was involved in the formation of the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities, the first group of its kind. In 1981 Kohn moved with his wife, Alice Matusow, and son to Sullivan's Island, South Carolina. There he became the editor of the Charleston Alternative, South Carolina's only gay newspaper. Divorced, Kohn was cared for in his last year by his mother and stepfather.

- by Robyn Ochs (based on information from GCN 6/25/87)

PAGE 16 • MAY 10, 1987 • PARADE MAGAZINE

The Sex Revolution

If science cannot develop within the next 10 years a vaccine that will prevent AIDS or a medicine that will cure it, how will that lethal disease change our lifestyles?

Last month, at a three-day conference jointly sponsored by the Center for Sex Research at California State University (in Northridge) and the western region of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, we wandered among the attending biologists, academics, sexologists, therapists and psychiatrists, listening to various discussions on the subject of fear and AIDS. What this reporter learned was that, in the near future, the following is likely:

- Sex education will be taught in public schools to students starting at the age of 10, 11 or 12.
- Condoms will be improved, advertised more widely and used more frequently.
- The growing use of condoms may reduce the number of illegitimate teenage pregnancies, as well as the volume of abortions.
- Virginity and chastity will become more prized and popular than ever before in this century.
- Young people may opt for early marriage to satisfy their sex drives.
- The fear of AIDS may reduce the number of divorces: Why leave a spouse who is sexually healthy for one who may not be?
- The presence of AIDS in the American culture will result in more books, films and plays dealing with the afflicted.
- Men and women who are 30 and still single will be viewed with mounting suspicion.
- Promiscuity among homosexuals and heterosexuals alike will drop sharply.
- An increasing number of nations will demand health certificates or documentary evidence from travelers to prove they are AIDS-free.
- The era of the permissive society will be a period of the past.

Peter Peter, Pumpkin-Eater had a wife . . .

The walls aren't exactly circular, but curved
which makes the fitting of carpets
furniture, of plumbing somewhat difficult;

entry was by way of the crown —
no skilful lobotomy this, just an axe
swung hard — the removal of all
resistance, the daily pain of scars.

Her days are spent quietly, she weaves
reads poetry and sometimes paints.

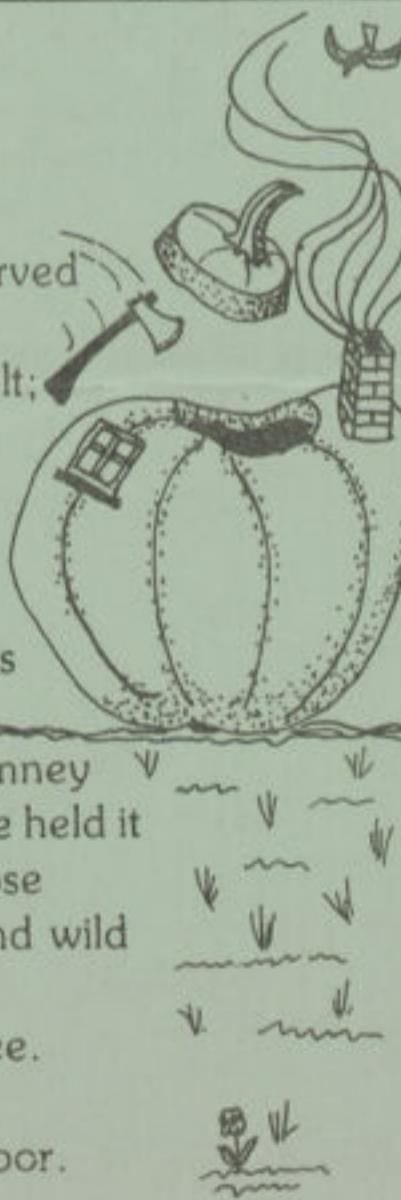
Yesterday a thrush flew down the chimney
and hopped among the ashes, but as she held it

— thinking always to keep it close
its body trembled, eyes flicked white and wild
so she took it to the attic window

where at once it soared high and free.

Now she is left alone — lives well
in an orange house which has no door.

- by Vivienne Joseph, a New Zealand poetess from, A Desirable Property.



HERE A BI, THERE A BI,
EVERYWHERE A BI, BI!

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR
COPY OF THE DIRECTORY OF BISEXUAL GROUPS:

New group:

Bi Group, Box 3287
Vancouver, BC V6B 3X9
CANADA

Bisexuals of the Washington Area
(Bi-Ways)
PO BOX 959
Washington, DC 20044

Old group, new address:

THE BI FORUM, 4305 Gesner St.,
Suite 216, San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 259-8019

St. Louis Bisexual Women's Support Group
** PLEASE ABBREVIATE: St. L.B.W.S.G.
c/o J. Seelig
7239 Tulane, Apt. 1 West
St. Louis, MO 63130
(314) 721-5363 (after 6:00pm)

SEATTLE BISEXUAL WOMEN'S NETWORK
PO BOX 30645
Greenwood Station
Seattle, WA 98103-0645
Message Phone: (206) 329-8707
(Phone c/o Seattle Counseling Service)
Ellen Barnett, contact person -
*** PLEASE ONLY USE SBWN INITIALS IF
WRITING C/O ELLEN,
THANK YOU - The Editors

- submitted by Robyn Ochs

Poetry: "untitled"

need to put you in perspective
not in a fenced yard
a cardboard box
a hamster cage
but in a corner of my mind
with pleanty of air and a lawn chair
we could wave to each other from time to time
but when people of my present ask me what i'm thinking
you will no longer strangle the words in my throat
is that so?
is that so?
i can see this is going to take some time

2nd ave hotel

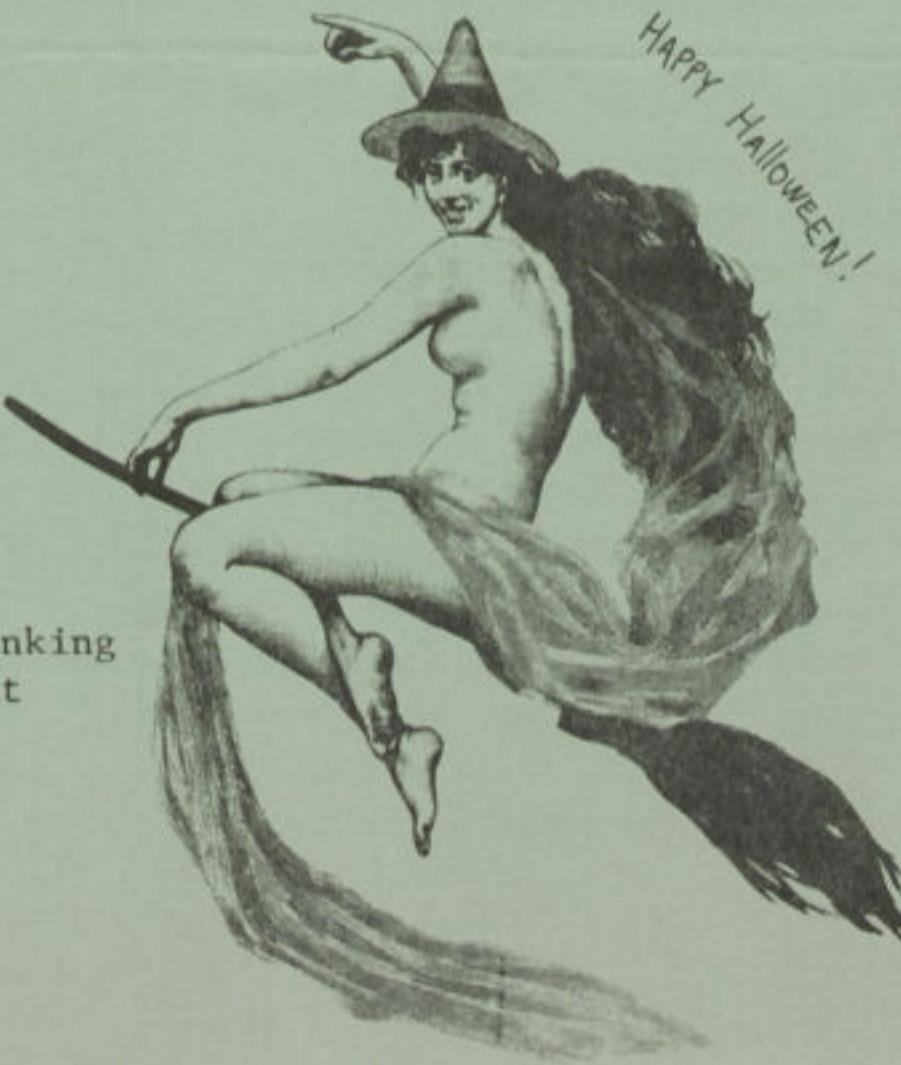
long string
high ceiling
naked bulb
scurring bathroom cockroach
old tub for two
your island breasts

using me/using you
remembering names
but
not favorite colors

restaurant lights

inside your skin
wanted to crawl
tight little ball
not sit across
talking little things
too many clothes on

grandmas dusty rose cammellias
something known
one special deep rose quartz
something known
two sensual rose lips
missing your kisses
something known



Reader's Forum

Dear ECBN,

What a wonderful bisexual conference that was! I'm still on a high from it - so much so that I can't find the evaluation form I picked up on my way out the door. Would you please send me one? I could go on and on about what a great conference it was, but I'd also like to reply to whatever questions you asked in the form. Please hurry, since I will only be at the above address until the end of May.

I'm looking forward very much to the next time we do this.

Sincerely,
Kate in New Orleans, LA

Hi Folks,

Congratulations on the ECBN Conference. I attended Saturday and was impressed by the diversity of attendees, the variety of workshops, and the amount of hard work you all put in.

Keep being a visible presence and reminding the rest of us to say Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual!

Peace,
Pam in Philadelphia

Dear BBWN:

Hi, my name is Marie and I am 20 years old. I'm also a college student. My home is in New Jersey. I am having difficulty in finding people or places I can go to. I am Bi but I need to know what to do about contacting others.

I got your address from the Conference you had in New York City. I could not attend but I decided to write.

Please send me any information that might help. Thank you.

Marie in Raritan, NJ

*If anyone out there is from nearby Raritan
Please write us and we will forward your
letter to Marie. Let's help her out!*

Dear BBWN:

I would be interested in subscribing to your newsletter, if you can assure me that it will be discreetly packaged. Thank you. (I'm responding to your ad in the Feb. "Ms." magazine.)

Marcia in Rolla, Missouri

*We package our newsletter discreetly -
whatever is on the INSIDE, however, is not
necessarily discreet... - The editors.*

Greetings Sisters,

I gratefully discovered your address in the July issue of Off Our Backs. I'm interested in subscribing to your newsletter and would appreciate information on how to do that.

I'm also interested in seeing a contingent of bisexual women marching in DC in October, and am willing to do organizing work in this part of the country.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

- Jill in Minneapolis, MN

Dear BBWN,

The June-July issue mentioned that you are accepting and looking for creative work. Enclosed are poems by a woman very special to me. A true friend and wonderful lover over 3000 miles. I met her in Seattle a year and a half ago - much has transpired in our relationship in the mail.

I have enclosed a few pieces of her writing. I should add that she is excited about the possibility of contributing to Bi-Women.

Valerie in Somerville

Dear BBWN,

This is long overdue, but I hope it helps you keep on keeping on. Until I can get the time/energy to start a bi group in Atlanta, your newsletter is a real lifeline.

Pam in Atlanta, GA



WOMEN'S ANTHOLOGY ON SEXUALITY

Material is now being compiled from the Bisexual & Lesbian communities for a women's anthology on sexuality. Single and married women are welcomed to submit their stories, thoughts, feelings and experiences (their own and members of their families).

The contributors' anonymity will be guarded (unless otherwise requested), but inclusion of your address and phone # for verification would be appreciated. Please write to: P.O.BOX 98, Newton Lower Falls, MA. 02162; Att.: MIRTA.

Thank you.

Dear Friends,

Enclosed is a copy of our newsletter, Bifocal. Hope you will find it of interest as an indication of what our group is doing. Also, we hope you will include basic info on our group in the "Here a Bi, There a Bi, Everywhere a Bi, Bi" listings in your newsletter.

Hope all is well with you folks, and we look forward to continued contacts and newsletter exchanges.

- Bisexual Connection in Minneapolis

Dear BiWomen,

Here's my money for this year's subscription. The newsletter looks wonderful. I think we're well on our way to creating a national network.

The Seattle group has gotten ourselves a new address & phone number:



Seattle Bisexual Women's Network
PO box 30645
Greenwood Station
Seattle, WA 98103-0645

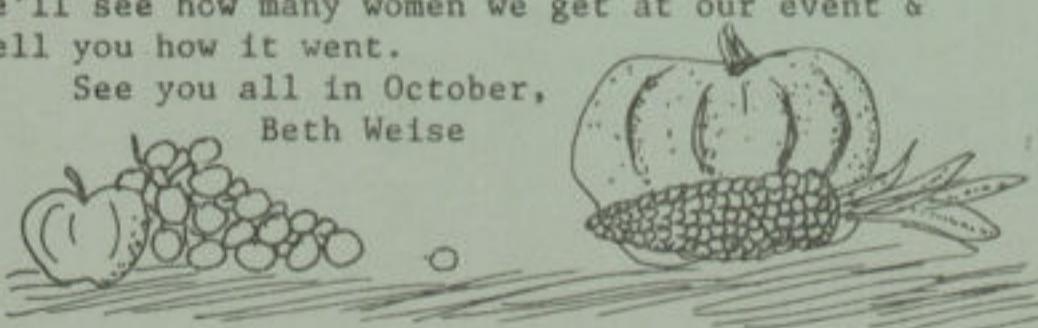
Message Phone: (206) 329-8707
(c/o Seattle Counselling Service)

I'm enclosing the articles I've written on bisexuality for your bibliography.

As for men reading BiWomen. It doesn't bother me at all. Although I understand & feel the need for women-only spaces, that doesn't extend to the written word. It is in no way threatening or censoring to me to share knowledge. Information can't be dangerous when it's disseminated. If we are truly building a national & international network of bisexuals, we need to have an available forum for ideas & discussion. Saying that the newsletter is only for women to read seems to create an artificial barrier at best, as men who respect us would respect the prohibition, and men who don't presumably wouldn't care about our feelings in the matter anyway. Rather than being a fledgling plant that needs to be protected from harsh weather, I think we're a strong, confident group of women who can be open about what we think and feel whoever is reading our work. For women who have concerns about being read by men, that's what using first names and pseudonyms are for.

Seattle will be at the October March on Washington. Not many of us can make it that far, so maybe some of you can help us carry our banner? Finally, we're going to be having our first big publicized event October 4th in the form of an open information meeting. Robyn came out to Seattle last month, and her visit was a real inspiration. We'll see how many women we get at our event & tell you how it went.

See you all in October,
Beth Weise



Dear BBWN,

Here it is July 15 and I finally dug out my desk enough to find and read the June-July BBWN News. Glad the Fun(d)raiser went well, your positive outlook and energy are really evident and really appreciated.

Don't let my opening sentence lead you to think I do not take the BBWN News seriously, or don't read it. I always do; it's just that in summer the paper tends to pile up a bit. Keep up the good work as always.

Bet MacArthur
in Cambridge, MA



Newsweek
444 Madison Ave
New York, NY 10022

To The Editor:

I am deeply offended by the article "A Perilous Double Love Life" characterization of bisexual people as deceitful and irresponsible. I have been active in the bisexual community in New York for years and know a great many bisexual people. Most of us are very open about our sexuality with our lovers and friends, and all of the bisexual men that I know are very responsible about AIDS and practice safe sex. This has not been true of the heterosexual men and women I know. Most heterosexuals seem ignorant of how AIDS is contracted and are very reluctant to use condoms. A woman is much safer in bed with a bisexual man who will use condoms than with a straight man who won't. Scapegoating bisexuals (or any other group of people) won't help us in the AIDS crisis. All of us-- gay, bi, and straight-- are in a high risk group now, and we must educate ourselves on safe sex practices in a pragmatic way that respects life.

Tamara B.

Dear BBWN,

Is there some way to insert a separate sheet of paper for the subscription renewal form? I hate cutting up my newsletter as I reread and lend them frequently.

Jet in Seattle

EDITOR'S NOTE: a) There have been a few responses to our requests re: 1) Men getting the newsletter; 2) Letters that were sent to Newsweek. The bulk of these will appear in following issues.

b) We want to hear from any women who go to Washington for the October 11th march. Please write us about your experiences.

c) Although scheduled, there were no Coordinating Committee meetings held in either July or August. Further information about rescheduling "BBWN Official Business" meetings to follow.

--- Laura Sachs

The Dutch National Broadcasting Corporation began a teletext service for lesbians and gay men as of January 1st. The broadcasting company said it needed to serve the 10 to 20 percent of its audience that is lesbian and gay. Daily news and announcements compiled by the gay Dutch paper De Gay Kant will be broadcast in the Netherlands, Belgium and West Germany.

The International Gay Travel Association has recently published a brochure describing its goals and activities. Travel industry members wishing to learn more about IGTA can request the free brochure by writing to IGTA at P.O.BOX 18466, Denver CO 80218.

From Both Sides Now, April, 1987
Kahului, Maui, Hawaii :

BAY AREA BI-GROUP BORN

On May 21, 23 women and 9 men attended the founding meeting of the Bay Area Bisexual Network. This group includes several of the organizers of the now inactive Bisexual Center and the still active Bi-Pol (a political organization for bisexuals).

People attending spoke of their reasons for organizing: to feel less isolated, to organize politically, and to counter homophobia and biphobia in society. One function of the network will be to provide a way for smaller support and social groups throughout the Bay Area to connect. Other plans include publicity and a newsletter. To contact the Bay Area Bisexual Network call (415) 929-9299.

Bisexuals in Washington area:

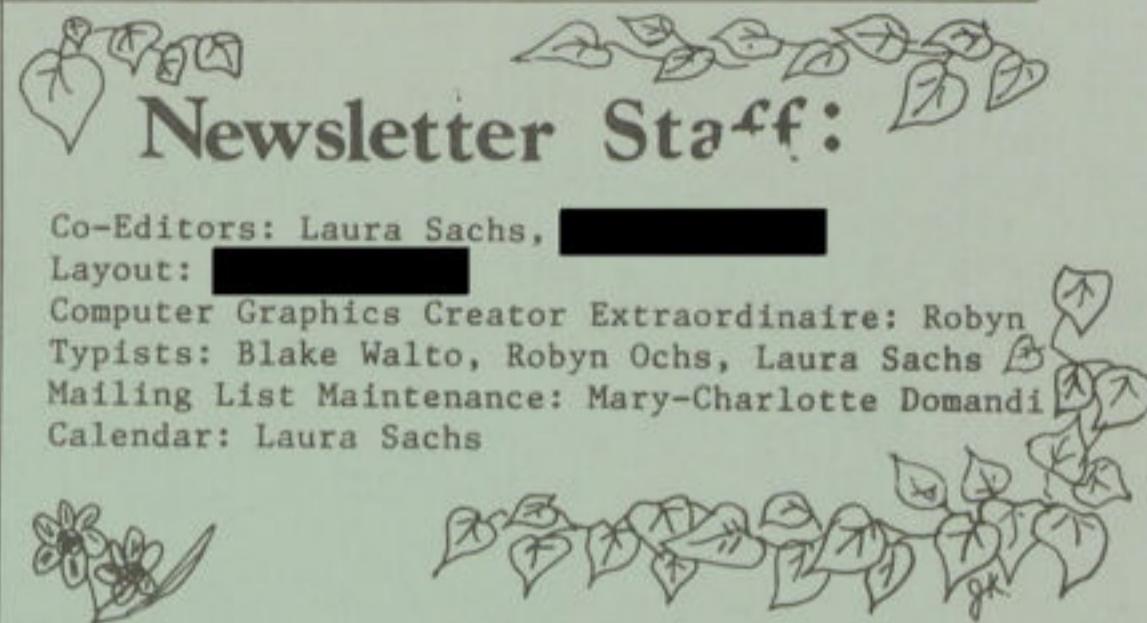
Thank you for your interest in Bi-Ways! We're a mixture of men and women of varied ages, backgrounds, and life situations--brought together in a shared belief: that bisexuality is a workable alternative in meeting needs for intimacy.

Our purpose is to offer a place of expression through monthly discussions and social events. Meeting at alternate homes of group members, we come together to listen, talk, & discover that we are not alone in our unique feelings. Discussions are held the second Monday of each month at 8pm.

There are no expectations at the meetings. It is fine just to listen. Our main concern is that everyone feels comfortable & benefits from the sharing of thoughts & experiences. All of our discussions are held in the strictest confidence, allowing participants to talk freely of personal & sensitive issues.

We also hold a social event each month--such as a picnic in the mountains or a gathering at a local theatre. Through these events, we have a chance to get to know each other individually and develop deeper friendships.

We enjoy meeting new people in our times together and welcome you to join us! For more information, write to us. (See address in Bi-Groups listings.)



Newsletter Staff:

Co-Editors: Laura Sachs, [REDACTED]

Layout: [REDACTED]

Computer Graphics Creator Extraordinaire: Robyn

Typists: Blake Walto, Robyn Ochs, Laura Sachs

Mailing List Maintenance: Mary-Charlotte Domandi

Calendar: Laura Sachs



HONOR ROLL

Special thanks to the following women for time and energy generously given to the BBWN during the months of August and September, 1987:

Mirta P.

Laura S.

Robyn O.

Mary-Charlotte

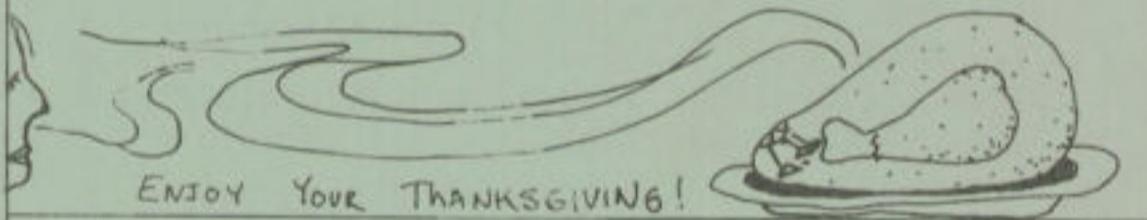
Blake W.

Sharon G.

Special, very special thanks to Liz Nania and Lucy Friedland who have given many, many hours of time to arrange, network, publicize, and help create a Bisexual Contingent to the National March on Washington.

CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE:

Beth Weise, Laura Sachs, Liz Nania, Lucy Friedland, Bi-Ways, Pam, Jet, Bet MacArthur, Bisexual Connection in Minneapolis, Jill, Valerie, Tamara B., Robyn Ochs, Kate, Marie, Marcia, Pamela S.



ENJOY YOUR THANKSGIVING!

CLASSIFIEDS

If interested in being a part of a local Bi-support, Bi-community group now forming in the Princeton, NJ area, please write to: PO Box 2367, Princeton, NJ 08543; or call Alana at (609) 259-2165. Local outings, support, friendship, and keeping aware of Bi issues & networking efforts are topics on the agenda.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to my favorite graduate student, Charnan Ann.

Love, Robyn Ann

Happy Birthdays to: Robyn O., Elene F., Lari K., Laurie L. (October 5th); Lisa C. (Oct. 10th); Nancy K. (Nov. 1); Laura F. (Nov. 20); Laura S. (Nov. 26).

Happy 5th Anniversaries to: C. & E. (Oct. 15); Nancy & Terry (Oct. 31).

Love you all,
Laura Sachs



Bi-woman or lesbian, 30+, wanted to share beautiful Mission Hill apt. Must love animals. No smoke/drugs/little alcohol. W/D, back porch, natural wood. Walk to T. \$350+. 277-5835.

Calendar

- Oct. 5 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm. Call 247-6683 for details. ALL WOMEN WELCOME. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!
- Oct. 9 (Fri) National Lobby Day. Let your elected representatives know where they should stand re: AIDS/ARC Funding & Gay & Lesbian Rights Bills. Call 442-9587 for info.
- Oct. 11 (Sun) MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Rights! Call 442-9597 for info, or (202) 783-1828/1830.
- Oct. 12 (Mon) HELLOOO COLUMBUS DAY (recover from March & get ready to be civilly disobedient).
- Oct. 13 (Tues) Non-Violent Civil Disobedience at the Supreme Court Bldg. (202) 783-1828.
- Oct. 16-18 Fifth Natl Conference on Bisexuality, Edinburgh, Scotland, 60 The Pleasance. Call 031-557-3620, Bisexual Phoneline, Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 (Scotland time!).
- Oct. 18 (Sun) RONNIE GILBERT WITH Diane Bulgarelli, ASL interpreted, Paine Hall at Harvard Music Bldg. 7:30pm. \$12.50 advance/ \$13.50 door. Call 661-1252 for info.
- Oct. 19 (Mon) BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting 7:00pm in Harvard Yard/Square area. Call 576-1084 for details.
- ***PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE FOR CC MEETING!!!!***
- Oct. 24 An Evening with HOLLY NEAR, 2 shows: 6pm & 9:30pm. ASL interpreted. Berkelee Performance Ctr. Call FolkTree at 641-1010 for info. \$14.50/\$16.50.
- Oct. 25 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism holds disc parties (tea dances) the last Sunday of every month, 6-10pm at the 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St., Boston. Everyone welcome. \$2 suggested donation.
- Oct. 26 (Mon) BBWN VOLUNTEER NIGHT, 7:30pm. Yes, indeed, there are other things to do besides stuff the newsletter. Odd & not-so odd jobs that keep us rolling along. At Robyn's, call 247-6683 for details.
- Oct. 26 (Mon) Dec/Jan Newsletter Deadline, keep those cards and letters coming!
- Oct. 31 (Sat) Feminist Voices in Concert, with Mary Daly, Sonia Johnson, Alix Dobkin, Casselberry & Dupree. 8:00pm. Somerville Theatre, ASL intrepreted. Call 625-1084 for info.
- Nov. 7 (Sat) 4th Annual FolkTree Festival of Women in Music: Cris Williamson, Queen Ida & the Bon Temps Zydeco Band, Connie Caldor, Lucie Blue Tremblay, Tret Fure. 2 shows, 5pm & 9:30pm. Berklee Performance Ctr. \$16.50/\$14.50. Call FolkTree at 641-1010.
- Nov. 8 (Sun) The Exiled Chilean Ensemble INTI-ILLIMANI, & FERRON. 2 shows, 3 & 7:30pm. \$16.50/\$14.50. Berkelee Performance Ctr. Call FolkTree at 641-1010.

Nov. 15 (Sun) 4th Annual FolkTree Festival of Women in Music. Sweet Honey in the Rock, Buffy Saint-Marie, Odetta, Carla Sciaky. Berkelee Performance Ctr. 3 & 8pm. \$16.50/ \$14.50. Call FolkTree at 641-1010.

Nov. 23 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night, Jan/Dec newsletter stuffing. VERY IMPORTANT. Call 247-6683 for details.

Nov. 26 Happy Thanksgiving!!

Nov. 29 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism (see Oct. 25 description)

Dec. 7 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting (see Oct. 5th description--all details the same).

Dec. 25 (Fri) Merry Christmas!!

Jan. 1 (Fri) Happy New Year!!

Jan. 18(Mon) BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting Come participate in the direction of your network. ALL WOMEN WELCOME. 6pm. Call 247-6683 for info.

Jan. 25 (Mon) BBWN Volunteer Night, 7:30pm. VERY IMPORTANT!! Come stuff the Feb/March newsletter. Call 247-6683 for details.

Every Wednesday: 7:30pm, Al-Anon Group for Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics. An Al-Anon meeting for Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics meets Wednesday nights at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency entrance). For more info & directions, call Marge, (617) 259-1559.





Bi Women



(....March!)

Volume 5, Number 7, December, 1987–January, 1988

U.S. Bi's Wow D.C.

[Could the *Herald* have done any better?]

by Liz Nania (National Co-Coordinator of the Bi Contingent for the March on Washington)

This was surely one of the finest moments in bisexual history. Gutsy bisexuals from about 20 states, bi's who have the courage and conviction to affirm their identity before more than half a million lesbians, gays and gay-rights advocates – those were the people who marched for us all on October 11, 1987 at the March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights. The Great March was the most powerful expression of gay/lesbian/bisexual pride, joy, community and love I've ever witnessed. A month later, I'm still feeling its magic, although I no longer have the urge to stand up in a movie theater and holler, "Whadda we want?" ("Gay Rights" was the response of the hour, by the way.)

It was thoroughly exhilarating seeing the city overrun with dykes, bi's and gay men – on the streets, in the restaurants and museums and bookstores. The National Museum of Women in the Arts, a somewhat stodgy but wonderful museum, looked like Sunday night at Campus. How's a girl supposed to concentrate on the art? All weekend long strangers (technically speaking) were smiling at each other and chatting and hugging. It was truly a national community.

Sunday morning at 8:15 marked the beginning of a momentous event: the first-ever gathering of bisexual women and men from all over the country! Our meeting place was almost as grand as the occasion –

the Mayflower Hotel dripped with crystal chandeliers, gilt-edged mirrors and carpets you could wade knee-deep through. The feeling of electricity in our meeting room could have lit up the whole hotel! We made friends and compared experiences of our community (or lack thereof) nationwide; we wore red and black and made red satin sashes with our own bi slogans emblazoned in gold; we picked up bi and gay literature from various parts of the country; we pinned on "Bisexual Pride" and "Bi-Phobia Shield" badges; we cheered ourselves as loudly as possible; and, we talked about the founding of a National Bisexual Network. [You'll be hearing more about this soon!] From there, the hundred participants marched to the Ellipse where we gathered our signs, our banners and our strength for the illustrious March. Meanwhile a BBWN-sponsored literature table on the Ellipse, staffed by bi's hailing from Boston and points westward, attracted lots of interest and positive response.

When the March began at last, we hoisted high beautiful, glittery signs proclaiming, "We're Not Fence-Sitters, We're Bridge-Builders," "Hug a Bisexual – We Play Safe, Too!," "Bisexuality is a Viable Option," and the ever-popular, "Equal Opportunity Lover." We marched next to the Transgenderal Contingent, Rock Against Sexism (from Boston), and some gay bagpipers decked to the hilt in kilts. One of the warmest and most joyous moments for me happened when, after we had finished a rousing chorus of "When the Bi's Go Marching By," the Scotsmen played it on their bagpipes! (Aye, my lassie, I shed a wee tear.)

The rally after the March proved at least as exciting as the March itself because there I witnessed hundreds

continued on page 4

The newsletter of The Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639 Cambridge, MA 02140



The following are responses to the *Newsweek* article (7/13/87) of which we received copies:

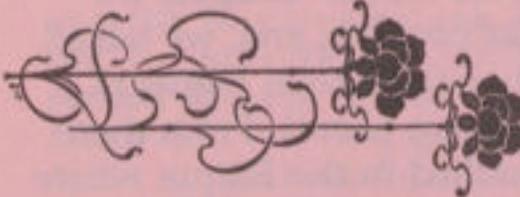
Dear Editor:

Your article on Bisexuality and AIDS (Lifestyle, July 13) is a classic example of irresponsible, inflammatory journalism. As a bisexual woman married to a bisexual man, I must take issue with your portrayal of bisexuals as dishonest, promiscuous AIDS carriers.

The article implies that all bisexuals are maladjusted, unhappy individuals who must either seek a "cure" or wind up with AIDS. There is an alternative: safe sex. I co-facilitate a bisexual support group and have found that our members are better educated about AIDS than the general public and are leading safe, responsible sex lives. (In fact, many are in monogamous relationships.) Here in the San Francisco area, many bisexuals are working hard on AIDS prevention, fundraising, and patient support.

My husband and I are not the "ultimate pariahs," as you put it. We are responsible members of our community. Your article only serves to create a homophobic and biphobic atmosphere that does nothing to help stop the spread of AIDS.

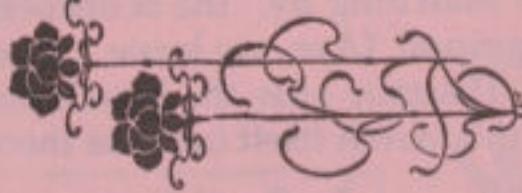
Eleanor Parker, Berkeley, CA



Dear Sir or Madam,

Your recent article on bisexuals was extremely offensive and vituperous. If bisexuals are indeed becoming the "new pariahs," it is due to hysterical, ignorant views like that which you put forth in your article. It seemed to me that you had a preconceived notion of bisexuals' disease-ridden promiscuity, so you took one sentence out of its context from every person you interviewed and constructed this narrow, fearsome picture of all bisexuals. This kind of "reporting" is National Enquirer-level journalism, and I am frightened to see these grossly distorted half-truths peddled to us in a supposed "news" magazine. You have just lost all credibility with me.

Elizabeth Nania, Boston MA



Dear Sir/Mme:

I just finished reading "A Perilous Double Love Life" and I am shocked! You have acted irresponsibly. You have limned a new "scapegoat" group to be hated and feared, like the gays, the blacks and the Jews before them.

It is NOT people, it is anal sex, that has to be avoided. There are as many kinds of bisexuals as there are heterosexuals and gays. Many of them are women! Your ignorance is abysmal.

Gerrie B., New York, NY

Dear *Newsweek*:

You folks apparently don't know the difference between a "duenna" and a "doyenne," but mislabeling Maggi Rubenstein was the least of your sins in the July 13 article on bisexuals. The article was as ignorant, prejudiced, and smarmily pseudo-objective as something that might have been written about homosexuals twenty years ago, before they could defend themselves. The first paragraph made me very, very uneasy.

Irresponsible sexual behavior, anonymous sex, multiple partners, "intoxicating" sexual experiences - if these are unique to the bisexual or even the homosexual world, it's news to me. I suspect that a statement like "the erotic factor alone can be overpowering" is even occasionally true of heterosexuals. It's true that some people people "cheat" on their regular sexual partner and risk infecting them with AIDS, and that many of them are bisexual. Many others are straight or gay. You could have reported this story without contributing to the creation of another "pariah" group in American society.

Kate C., W. Orange, NJ

Editor:

As a bisexual rights activist quoted in your article "BISEXUALS AND AIDS," I must say that while it is occasionally fair, overall it is negative, judgmental and biphobic. Yes some bisexual people are closeted. I encourage all bisexual people to come out to their partners and to use safe sex techniques unless they have been monogamous for at least 5 years. However, the thousands of bisexual women and men I have talked with are out to their partners, friends and family, are being responsible, and are keeping commitments. I hope that in future reporters will present truth rather than mythology and stereotyping. Bisexual people, as well as gay and lesbian people, are leaders in the training and education of our community about AIDS. San Francisco Bay Area gays and bisexuals, in particular, have changed unsafe sexual behavior to safe sexual behavior in an unprecedented and dramatic way.

Finally, your article described me as a "duenna." I am, hopefully, a leader and role model for other bisexual people who may just now be coming out. We are in all walks of life, and we are healthy and positive in our attitudes about sex. I, personally, am not only a nurse and licensed counselor (as you state), I am also a sexologist at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, and have conducted Sex Education Workshops since 1972, and Safe Sex Seminars since 1983. I co-founded the San Francisco Sex Information Switchboard in 1972, and the Bisexual Center in 1976. (Incidentally, the Kinsey Institute requested, and now has, a copy of my 1980 doctoral dissertation on Bisexuals and Self Esteem.

Maggi Rubenstein, San Francisco CA

continued on page 8



Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

3

CC MINUTES, OCTOBER 19, 1987:

Present: Sharon G., Robyn O., Laura S., Lisa W., Linda W., Lucy F.

- A) Agenda: Auction, Party, Conference, Other good stuff.
B) Sharon; Treasurer Report, \$1100.00 in account (updated treasurer's report in newsletter)
PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER THIS JOB FROM SHARON, ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED SHOULD CALL BIS-MOVE (247-6683) AND LEAVE A MESSAGE!
C) Envelopes; Ordering/shortage of same: Laura will order 10,000 for newsletter and conference.
D) Mailing List: Lisa is willing to do it; Linda offered Filemaker Plus (computer program); We will decide later whether the data entry will be shared with Sherry, etc. We discussed address changes, and how not to lose Sherry's offer and energy since Lisa is now going to be doing the mailing list.
E) GCN Article: Laura has had a National Bisexual Network photo published, and will be writing an article to go in another issue. All but Linda (who didn't go to Washington) would like to be interviewed. Robyn suggested contacting Beth Weise in Seattle, or Michele Moore, editor of the Empty Closet, in New York to possibly write it from a national perspective. Sharon is willing to co-write the article, note to include men in interviews. (UPDATE ON ARTICLE: An expanded version of the originally suggested article will be in a future issue of GCN. This article to include Bi history from the 70's, info about BBWN, BBN, formation of a National Bi-Network, etc. -- Laura)
F) NATIONAL NETWORK UPDATE: Lucy: addressed what would be needed to form a National Network financially, participation-wise, etc., Can ECBN co-exist with a national network? Getting responses to what people think of this idea; would not necessarily be based in Boston but would have a National Steering Committee; Questions of motivation, burn-out, participation. California

willing to receive responses of survey. Survey will have to be stuffed, mailing done in Dec/Jan issue of Bi Women. Spoke about how every network should be sending their newsletters to every other network to keep communications going.

Sharon mentioned that perhaps there could be a meeting of those in BBWN who are interested in aiding Lucy in putting the national network in place. (HOW ABOUT IT LADIES? THOSE INTERESTED IN THIS SPECTACULAR IDEA SHOULD CALL BIS-MOVE 247-6683, AND LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR LUCY FRIEDLAND OR LIZ NANTA. WE WANT YOUR INPUT! the Editors)

G) March Table: \$50.00 put out for BBWN information table on the Ellipse in Washington, DC. Some money was allotted from printing, organizing; Sharon and Lucy talked about BBWN absorbing the overdraft cost of these activities - (\$167.00 was spent for buttons) - it was agreed BBWN will buy the rest of the buttons that weren't sold, and use them for future fundraising.

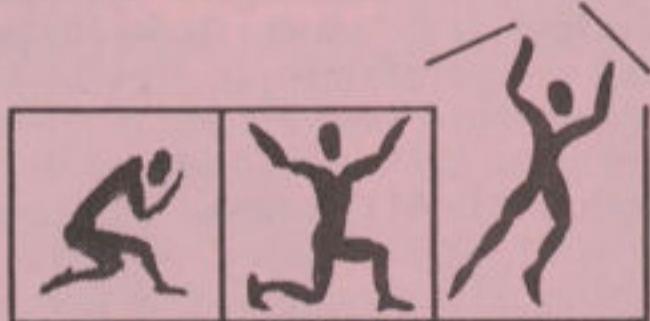
H) COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING: Please note: next meeting January 18 at Lisa's, 7:00pm SHARP! Be There or Be Square! (Sorry - I just couldn't help myself - LS)

I) Workshops/Conference/Party: Possible workshop with AIDS Action Committee, an auction (our 2nd), the 5th Annual Conference on Bisexuality, a BBWN 5th Anniversary Party (yeah!) and a coming out workshop: Nancy K. wanted BBWN endorsement for a coming out workshop; several books to be purchased for use at this workshop and would then be placed in the BBWN Archives. Lucy suggested getting publicity through the Women's School at the Cambridge Women's Center. Suggested doing another in the Spring or putting it off until Spring. There'd be a donation... space would be free, so would publicity. Lisa brought up setting a budget; Approved: \$50.00 seed money. (This workshop is happening: see announcement elsewhere in newsletter and calendar -- LS) (on page 9)
-- AIDS Action Committee: doing workshop on safe sex with BBWN; have to get more information from AIDS Action as to procedure.

continued on page 8

INTRODUCING THE OPENING OF A NEW PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE:

[REDACTED], P.T., received her degree in physical therapy from the Mayo Clinic in 1980. She has developed an holistic approach to healing, and works in close conjunction with the holistic health community.



- Injury Management & Prevention
- Pain Management
- Stress Management
- CranioSacral Therapy
- Myofascial Release
- Exercise
- Posture Instruction
- Massage

[REDACTED], Physical Therapist; at Contemporary Therapy, 222 Third St., Suite 3210, Cambridge, MA 02142

617.868.0220

U.S. Bi's Wow D.C.

continued from page 1

of thousands of us joining together in one massive euphoric gathering. It was mind-blowing. I felt completely welcome and accepted as a bisexual, and more so than at many local gay or lesbian events. Although most of the speakers and entertainers were top-notch, many of us were aware that the word "bisexual" was largely conspicuous by its absence from the stage and the literature. But hey, it's only 1987! Give us a few years and about a million hours of consciousness-raising, OK? We're up to the task; that's why we were there.

One success story: comic Lea Delaria (of Dos Lesbos, smash hit performers playing all summer in Provincetown), who was the rally MC, made a dreadful introduction twice, saying, "Ladies and gentlemen, dykes and fags, and the confused remainder..." After greeting this with boo's, hisses and shouts of, "We're not confused!", a group of angry bisexuals wrote her a note asking for a public apology. The person on stage said, "Forget it! We're behind schedule," of course, but delivered it. Soon after, Lea sought out our Bi Contingent banner in the sea of faces and made a personal apology to the group. She said that she had certainly not intended to refer to bisexuals as the "confused remainder," but to address people who do not know how to label themselves, and she promised not to use the line in that form again. Hooray! Thanks to Lea Delaria for her openness and to the assertive bisexuals who helped move us all forward a step.

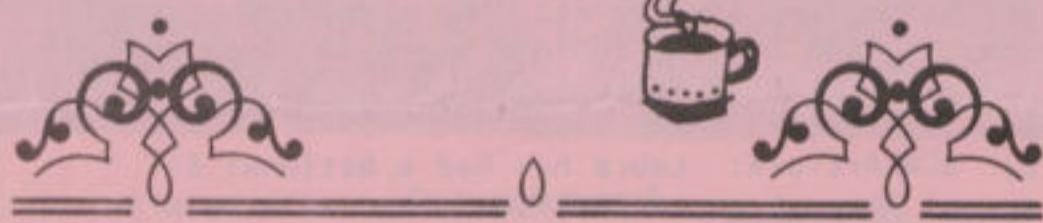
Although the March weekend couldn't have been more beautiful and empowering, the important question remains: *How do we use this experience?* What does it mean for the millions of bisexuals, lesbians and gays all over the country and world, both those who did and did not attend? On a more manageable scale, how do *we* (that means you and me!) keep the spirit alive? The March generated a tremendous amount of energy that is still buzzing, and we *must* use it or lose it. If you've ever considered getting politically involved, NOW is the time! If you're thinking of doing even a little more work on lesbian/gay/bisexual issues, strike while the iron is hot! Wear a bisexual pride button! Come out to a friend, co-worker or relative; is there anyone to whom you *could* come out to but haven't? Ask yourself this question and take some serious inventory, because gay visibility is at its highest, yet at a fraction of what it could be! Don't be left behind in the closet; be brave!

Subscribe to *Gay Community News* (GCN) or *Bay Windows* and watch for lots of new and expanded gay & lesbian projects, to which the March has given birth, and take part as an OUT bisexual. Participate in the formation of the new National Bisexual Network! Work with BICEP, the muscle behind the bi community! [See the BICEP article in this newsletter.]

Support our beloved BBWN, the organization that is responsible for bringing out and unifying untold numbers of bi women in the Boston area. Such energy is needed to sustain the newsletter and to organize next spring's Fifth Annual Bisexual Conference. You could even start a brand new project! Think about it.

Consider working for groups that are working for you. The time is ripe! The March isn't over! Long live the spirit of October 11!

JEAN'S HOUSEWARMING and POTLUCK DINNER: Wednesday, December 9th, on Beacon Hill. Please call: 367-3946 for location. Be glad to see new people and old friends. From 6:00pm - on...Bring something **TASTY**...Hmmm? Discretion unnecessary.



WASHINGTON AND BEYOND:

**Looking for Some Bi Political Action?
Join "BICEP" – The Political Arm
of the Bi Community!**

By Lucy Friedland (National Co-Coordinator for the Bi Contingent for the March on Washington)

The March on Washington for Gay & Lesbian Rights was a glorious event, one that brought over half a million gays, lesbians and gay-rights advocates to D.C. About 100 brave and happy souls turned out to march in the Bisexual Contingent, a small but hugely important group within the context of this gay-oriented March.

You may ask, "What's so hugely important about 100 bisexuals?" For me, what made these 100 people so special was that they made a spectacle of themselves. Let me explain. I sensed that in order for these 100 people to participate meaningfully in the March, they *had* to march in the Bi Contingent. If they had marched with their geographical regions or with gay organizations, they would have felt like they were marching in camouflage, which would have violated the spirit of the March. These 100 people recognized that we can't shed our "outlaw" status by going underground *anywhere*, not in the straight world and not in the gay world either, and that included the March. The Bi Contingent was demanding from the WHOLE WORLD public recognition and acceptance of our sexual preference, and we were willing to draw attention to ourselves to get that.

As you can see, I'm very proud of those 100 people who marched with the Bi Contingent, and I would like to thank and praise everyone who supported the Contingent with their presence and/or with their money.

continued on page 5

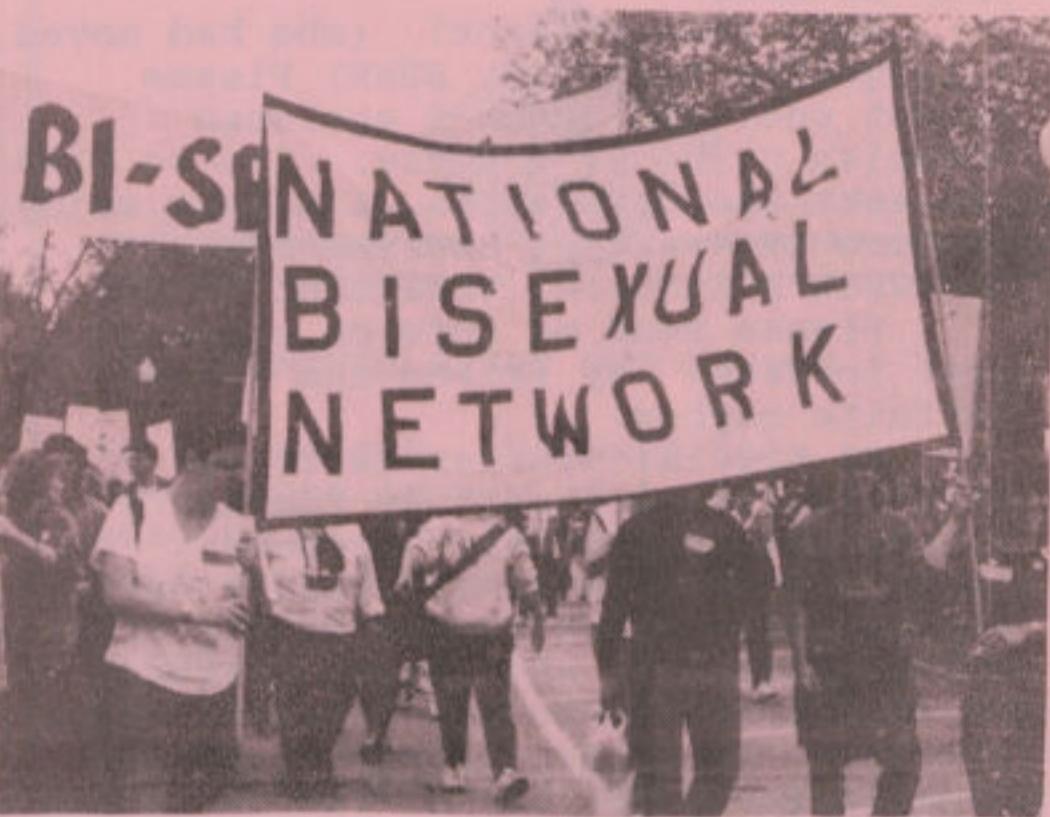
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But now, in the March morning-after, I'd like to see bisexuals continue to draw attention to themselves. In the continuing "march" towards gay liberation, bi's cannot be left behind. We must pick up where the March on Washington left off. We cannot leave bi liberation in the hands of gay liberationists, expecting our freedoms to be automatically secured by dint of their struggle. Bisexuals must look out for the interests of bisexuals everywhere: in the gay press, in the straight press, in gay & lesbian cultural and political groups and in "progressive" heterosexual groups. These are likely places to start.

A group has already formed in San Francisco devoted to bi political activism. Founded by Lani Kaahumanu, the group calls itself "Bi-Pol," and its purpose is to raise bisexual issues and awareness within the gay & lesbian community. Bi-Pol is doing groundbreaking work there by securing bi representation in gay & lesbian political groups and in the San Francisco Gay Pride March Committee. They have also been successful in getting more bi language and articles into gay, lesbian and feminist publications.

In Boston, BBWN and BBMN (Boston Bisexual Men's Network) have operated politically on an ad-hoc basis. Intermittently, an article on a bi topic, written by a network member, appears in a gay paper. Bi members of the Gay & Lesbian Speakers' Bureau give talks. Also, network members have responded individually and/or collectively to emergencies, such as July's *Newsweek* incident (see the last two issues of this newsletter). And, BBWN and BBMN have participated in Boston's Gay Pride Marches for several years now. However, the primary focus of the networks has not been pure political activism (insofar as workshops, conferences, and newsletters are not specifically political, even though they serve political ends.)

Due to the invaluable efforts of BBWN and BBMN, the bi community has become larger, stronger



Bisexuals march

PHOTO: LAURA SACHS

and more visible. The March on Washington, and other milestone events, have proved that we can hold fast to our identities outside of bi circles. What we need now is a coordinated, ongoing effort to raise bi issues in places where they haven't been raised before or persistently enough.

I would like to see a Boston-based task force form to work on bi political actions, comprised of interested women and men. "BICEP" is just one possible name: the **Bi Committee Engaging in Politics**. Some potential activities would be: media relations, networking with the gay & lesbian community, bi visibility campaigns, letter-writing campaigns, and art activism (like guerrilla theater or graffiti). The possibilities are endless, but we could keep our objectives as small or large as our collective energies dictate. Depending on people's input, the Committee could 1) work within the framework of one or both of the Boston networks; or 2) function independently; or 3) invite national participation. Within the framework of BBWN and BBMN, the Committee could assist the networks in certain tasks, or it could take on tasks associated with the founding of the National Bisexual Network. All suggestions are more than welcome.

I would love to hear from anyone who would like to talk about the formation, purpose and strategy of a Bi Political Task Force. Perhaps we could arrange a convenient meeting time for Boston-area people. If you have any thoughts on bi political activism or would consider working in a "BICEP" collective, please call me at (617) 734-9348 or write: Lucy Friedland, 60 Woodstock Ave., #14, Brookline, MA 01246. Let's see if we can get something in motion. If we mobilize now, perhaps the next March Extravaganza will go down in history as the Gay, Lesbian & BISEXUAL March on Washington!



Photo: Laura Sachs

Here are we wowing D.C.!

6 Reader's Forum

Dear Batman,

Holy Embarrasment! (she had moved & forgotten to notify BBWN) Please accept enclosed check & enclosed sheepish grin. I'm sorry. I'm so glad you sent the newsletter, I always enjoy reading it - except hearing about Newsweek's shameful treatment of you.

Please send me info on where to meet in Wash. My friend and I are definite maybes.

Bi trivia: Greater Hartford Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Community Center is opening this September. Our goals are to provide affordable meeting spaces for support groups and to staff a BLG hotline. If any of you Greater Hartforders want to get involved leave your name & address on our answering machine (203) CENTER-9. Yes, Virginia - there will be a hotline where the staffers have been trained never to say: "Don't worry dear, it's just a phase."

Bi Bibliography: Dreamsnaake - Vonda McIntyre - sci fi novel set in bisexual society with trisexual affirming ending.

Thank you so much! I'm so glad I know you ladies!

Love,
Robin G., Hartford CT

To whom it may concern,

I think I am bisexual, but I find it difficult, sometimes, to figure out what this means. Women's literature so often seems geared solely to strictly 'straight' women or strictly lesbian women. I don't feel very confused, but sometimes I think I must be, if I don't obviously feel one way or the other!

Anyway, I was very excited, recently, to read about a few organizations of bisexual women, including yours, which seem to recognize problems such as mine. Do you have any literature you could send me? Book lists? etc, etc.

Thanks a lot.

Sincerely,
Eve V., Cambridge MA

Dear Newsletter Organizers,

I have never seen your newsletter but read in off our backs that it is "great." Cornellessbians is considering subscribing but we would like to know if it is relevant to groups that are not near Boston. Please send a sample copy. [Editors' note: although most of our calendar listings are for the Boston area, we hope that the articles and letters in our newsletter will be of interest to all bi women, regardless of location.]

Go for it BBWN! I love the Newsletter!!! Boston - congratulations on being the present "hub" of the BI Universe.

-Alana D., Robbinsville NJ

Hello Women!

It was so good to see BBWN women at our Lesbian Luau - we loved having you. And to finally meet Laura! What a treat. It was a nice way to announce our engagement.

Here's our money - hope you reach your \$3500.

- V & Hanna, Somerville MA

Dear BBWN,

Please send me a sample of your newsletter Bi Women. Also, do you know if Dallas has a bi support group? This is a rather conservative area! Lastly, do you have a list of bi organizations throughout the US? [Editors' note: yes, we do] I'm considering moving to Seattle. The political/social climate (not to mention the climate - Hot!) leaves something to be desired in Dallas. Thank you,

- PJR, Mesquite TX

Dear Friends,

I just completed reading an article in Playgirl magazine which dealt with the topic of Bisexuality. I was thoroughly intrigued. Instead of receiving a boring story and subsequent analysis, real people gave first person accounts attesting to their true feelings and experiences with living bisexual in a world which is predominately heterosexual. I could relate to many of the thoughts expressed, but never knew there was any type of organization that dealt with this particular lifestyle. Would you please be so kind as to send me some further material or information on your network. I would be interested in meeting others who not only feel the same as myself, but who practice the same lifestyle I desire. Thank you.

- S.R., Easton PA

Dear BBWN,

Sorry it's taken so long for me to send you my dues. I hope you haven't taken my name off of the mailing list because I look forward very much to receiving the newsletter. I've enclosed a check for \$7. That's all I can afford to give right now. Keep up the good work and thanks for such a terrific newsletter.

- Sincerely,
C.E. Williams

continued on page 7

Reader's Forum

continued from page 3

7

Dear BBWN Newsletter Staff,

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that I've been a grateful recipient of the newsletter for the past couple of years. The graphics used have been both aesthetically pleasing and eye-catching. They've enhanced both the insightful and thought-provoking articles and the useful calendar section.

I know that producing a newsletter can be both time and energy-consuming - and I want to thank all of you for doing an excellent job! I regret that to date I haven't been able to be more actively involved in the creation of the newsletter due to various factors in my schedule (and the fact that I already edit another newsletter for a regional non-profit organization).

In any case, our Bi support group has been like an ever-present oasis in my life during this time. I also appreciate the chance to have found such pleasant comrades and soul sisters at a chance meeting at the Women's Center two years ago!

Thanks again and keep up this necessary and pioneering work!

- Maria V, Boston MA

Dear BBWN,

The conference was wonderful. I was afraid a public school would be cold and impersonal, but it was quite a friendly place. My only complaint was about one of the workshops: a man who gave us directions and had us fill out a questionnaire. It seemed mostly for his own use, not ours. Not very interesting. Overall however, I learned a lot and had a lovely time. I felt so comfortable, so nurtured, being surrounded by network people! If I could only have that more often!

Thanks,

- Jean, Boston MA

Please let us know how much subscriptions to your newsletter are - it got a great review in the last issue of Plexus. Thank you. (what's Plexus?)

- Annette K, Berkeley CA

Quote of the Month:



"Some folks get nervous because they think I'm a lesbian. And there are some other folks who get nervous when they think I might not be."



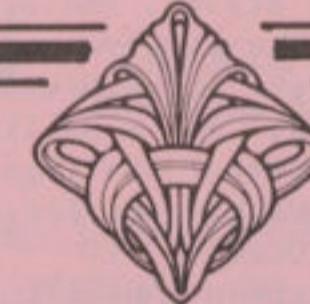
- Holly Near, in concert in Boston, October 24, 1987

TWO EVENINGS EVERY TWO MONTHS

is all we ask. We need help on the newsletter in any of a variety of ways: reading Bi newsletters worldwide for interesting snippets for ours, answering correspondence, choosing poetry and graphics to put in, putting Calendar together, writing up some current event, typing, and paste-up or assembly of the newsletter itself! We are getting much more organized which makes it all run smoother, but we do need your help. It's really rather fun to be part of, so do give us a call. Leave a message at 367-3946 for "Newsletter." Thanks a lot.

Jean & Lura

Discretion unnecessary.



Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 5/25/87 \$864.58

Expenses:

Printing June/July and August/September Newsletters	538.78
Postage June-November	476.13
Tri-Network Phone	17.05
Donation to Community Church of Boston	30.00
Pride Day Table	20.00
Advertising in <u>Sojourner</u>	20.00
Donation to March on Washington (Local Organization)	15.00
Total	\$1116.96

Income:

Donations and Memberships	2287.80
Buttons	16.00
Interest	6.67
Total	\$2310.47

Balance as of 9/22/87

\$2058.09

The following are responses to the Newsweek article (7/13/87) of which we received copies:

Dear Newsweek:

I am responding to Newsweek's wretched article on bisexuality in the July 13th issue, "Bisexuals, AIDS and the Dangers of a Double Life." You begin by acknowledging that "very little is known about the numbers and habits of bisexuals," & then credit bisexuals [men and women?] capable of all kinds of nefarious and irresponsible sex practices.

The theories you use to explain bisexual behaviors are ridiculous. The "distant, unsympathetic father" theory doesn't wash with us women. Neither does the "three categories of bisexuals" theory. My understanding of bisexuality, gained, in part, through bisexual conferences, retreats and political action groups, is that bisexual practice is as varied as bisexuals are. Contrary to what your reporters might fantasize, a number of men and women who identify as bisexual are celibate!

Your own research has revealed no substantial evidence that "bisexuals [here you must mean bisexual men] are passing the disease from the gay to the straight community." Aren't you grievously maligning all bisexuals by calling us a threat to our spouses and children?

The bisexuals of America have been organizing into networks to combat just this kind of pernicious biphobia. 30 networks have been founded in the United States, and at least 6 more internationally. The five-year old Boston Bisexual Women's Network, which Newsweek characterizes as a "support group," has a mailing list of over 800. A National Bisexual Contingent is forming to join the March on Washington for Gay & Lesbian Rights, taking place October 11.

Another raison d'être for the local and regional bisexual networks has been to educate men and women on safe sex and contraceptive issues. The "new uneasiness about AIDS" is only new to straights. AIDS has been an issue for the bisexual community since 1979. What is new is mainstream media's interest in writing skewed, sensationalist bisexual exposes. The "pariahs of the '80s who 'want it all!' also want to be represented fairly in the media."

■
Lucy Friedland, Boston MA

METRO BOSTON WOMEN'S INSURANCE AGENCY

Helena Hantzes

69 Cedar Street
Somerville, MA 02143

(617) 628-8592

Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

continued:

-- CONFERENCE: We have an offer from a woman at Harvard University to use space there, CHEAP! Anytime in March or after mid April is O.K. No one organizing for it yet - Sharon proposed to make her house available for a general organizing meeting, Thurs., Nov. 5 @ 7:00pm, all agreed to call 7 people from volunteer list (PLEASE NOTE: see announcement elsewhere in newsletter and calendar for upcoming meetings for the 1988 conference -- LS)

(on page 9)

-- AUCTION: Fundraiser/dance/party/auction - very Boston-oriented event - BBWN FUN(D)RAISER, an organizing meeting will be scheduled in next newsletter/announcement to have Robyn as contact to receive calls for fundraiser.

-- FIFTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY: BBWN will be 5 years old next year!!! This discussion was tabled until next meeting

J) Last but certainly not least: Lucy mentioned the need for a Bi representative(s) to sit in on Gay and Lesbian Committee meetings that focus on all sorts of issues, we need a task force and we need to be more vocal, so call in and speak up!!!

--Linda W. (Edited by Laura Sachs)

Newsletter Staff:

Co-Editors: [REDACTED], Laura Sachs

Layout:

Typists: Robyn Ochs, Lucy Friedland,
Laura Sachs

Mailing List

Maintenance: Mary-Charlotte Domandi

Treasurers Report: Sharon G.

Calendar: Laura Sachs

CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE:

Liz Nania, Laura Sachs, [REDACTED],
Lucy Friedland, Eleanor Parker,
Maggi Rubenstein, V and Hanna, P.J.R.,
Geri B., Kate C., Linda W., Robin G.,
Eve V., Alana D., S.R., Annette K.,
C.E. Williams, Sharon G., Maria V.

Again we extend our deepest thanks to Liz n' Lucy for making the pre-march get together and the National Bisexual Contingent that proudly took its place in the march a reality!

We also extend our thanks to all who marched or participated in the National March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights!!

THINGS TO DO WITH B.B.W.N.:

9

THINGS TO DO WITH BBWN:

Cross-Country Skiing Weekend: Jan. 23-24, 1988. Please plan ahead and reserve your space now, so we can make arrangements. COST: Approx. \$30.00, (price INCLUDES: Food & Lodging) LOCATION: Waterville Valley, NH. X-C skiing equipment can be rented there. Let's carpool; please tell us if you can drive or need a ride. Call 247-6683, (BIS-MOVE) and leave your name and number.

Brunch at the S&S Deli, Inman Square, Cambridge. Sunday, Jan. 10th, 11:00am - 1:00pm (approx.) At 1:00pm adjourn to the Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway St., Cambridge (at Harvard University) 495-9400, \$3.00 entrance fee. Join us for good food, elegant women, and fine art. Who could ask for more?

Every Wednesday: 7:30pm, Al-Anon Group for Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics. An Al-Anon meeting for Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics meets Wednesday nights at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency entrance). for more info & directions call Marge (617) 259-1559.

PROFILES IN COURAGE

Entered exclusive boutique knowing she wasn't about to buy anything, and tried on an outfit costing \$14,000!



COMING OUT AS A BISEXUAL:

A discussion and role-playing workshop for women only. When: Dec. 19th (Sat.), 11:00am-2:00pm. Where: At the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square. ALL Women Welcome. Preregistration required; Limited to 20. Call 247-6683 and leave a message for **NANCY**. Donations happily accepted!



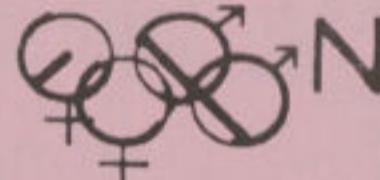
BBWN FUN(D)RAISER/DANCE/PARTY/AUCTION:

The 1987 fundraiser was fun and kept BBWN solvent through the summer (see June/July Bi Women). It's time to start planning our 1988 event, so we're putting out the call. If **YOU** are interested in working on the fundraiser, please call Robyn at 576-1066.



For the academically minded:

Dr. Regina Reinhart (Ph.D. 1985, Professional School of Psychology) has completed a dissertation entitled "Bisexual Women in Heterosexual Relationships."



The East Coast
Bisexual Network

THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON BISEXUALITY:

Is coming back to BOSTON!! "What?" you say, "So soon?" Yes indeed it's time to start working on the 1988 conference; to be held sometime in March or after mid April. The time to plan is NOW!! DECEMBER 14, @ 7:00pm (sharp!), there will be a third conference meeting at LISA'S. (That's right, 2 meetings have already happened) Please call **BIS-MOVE (247-6683)** and leave your name and phone number for locations and directions. We're looking forward to seeing **YOU** there!!!



HONOR ROLL:

Special thanks to the following women for time and energy generously given to the BBWN during the months of October and November, 1987:

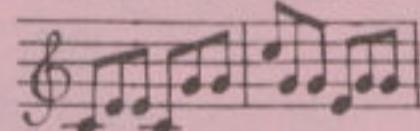
Liz N.	Mary-Charlotte D.
Sharon G.	Nadine D.
Laura S.	Nancy K.
Robyn O.	Linda W.
Jean K.	Lisa W.
Lucy F.	Nina C.



Dec. 7 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square, 7:30pm. Call 247-6683 for details. ALL WOMEN WELCOME. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

Dec. 12 (Sat) Heather Bishop & Fred Small, 8:00pm, at Paine Hall, Harvard Music Bldg. (behind Science Center) Holiday Concert for adults & children of all ages. Tickets: \$12.50/\$13.50(door) ASL interpreted. Call 661-1252 for more info.

Dec. 13 (Sun) Cafe Tropical Women's Jazz & Latin Folk Cabaret: Cercie Miller/Rachel Nicollazzo Duo plus Lisa Thorson & Friends, 7:30pm, ASL interpreted. Tickets: \$6.00/\$8.00(door) Call 247-3576 for more info.



Dec. 14 (Mon) 1988 5th Annual Conference on Bisexuality planning meeting, 7:00pm (sharp) at Lisa's. Please call 247-6683 & leave name & number for address and directions. See listing on page 9.

Dec. 14 (Mon) Gay & Lesbian Speakers Bureau meeting: Discussion topic: "Families at the Holidays." 7:00pm, at Bill Barnert's, Call 868-4512 for more info.

Dec. 16 (Wed) Happy Chanukah!!!



Dec. 16 (Wed) Susan Farley & Janet Hood at Ryles (upstairs), Inman Square, Cambridge. 8:30pm and 10:00pm, \$5.00 at the door.

Dec. 19 (Sat) Coming Out as a Bisexual: A discussion and role-playing workshop for women only, 11:00am to 2:00pm, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square. Preregistration a must, limited space, see listing on page 9.



Dec. 19 (Sat) John McCutcheon with Marcia Taylor (of Bright Morning Star) 8:00pm at Paine Hall, Harvard Music Bldg. (behind Science Center) a concert to welcome the Winter Solstice. Tickets: \$12.50/\$13.50(door), ASL interpreted, Call 661-1252 for more info.

(Both Dec. 12 & Dec. 19 concerts produced by Revolutionary Acts; a women owned, women-operated business.)



Dec. 25 (Fri) Merry Christmas!!!

Dec. 27 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism: A Benefit for the Women's School at the Cambridge Women's Center, 6-10pm, Admission \$1.00 before 7:00pm, \$2.00 after, at the 1270 Club, 1270 Beacon St. Boston. Everyone Welcome!!

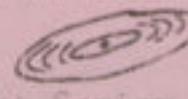
Dec. 29 (Tues) February - March Newsletter Deadline. Keep those cards and letters coming!!

Jan. 1 (Fri) Happy New Year!!!



Jan. 18 (Mon) BBWN Coordinating Committee Meeting: Shake off those winter doldrums! Come participate in the direction of YOUR network, at Lisa's, 7:00pm sharp. Call 247-6683, leave name and number, we'll call back with location and directions.

Jan. 25 (Mon) Stuff, stuff, stuff, stuff, stuffity, stuff, stuffity stuff (c'mon you can figure this out) the February/March Newsletter at Robyn's, 7:30pm. Call 247-6683 for details. VERY IMPORTANT!!

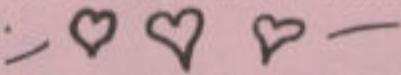


Jan. 30 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism, Disc Party, (tea dance) 6-10pm, at the 1270 Club, 1270 Beacon St., Boston. All Welcome, \$2.00 suggested donation.

Jan. 30 (Sun) Children In Our Lives, a conference about lesbian mothers. Open to all women. 9:00am to 5:00pm, Sunday Event for participants at the Children's Museum. Call the Cambridge Women's Center 354-8807 for more info.

Feb. 1 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, (see Dec. 7 description, all details the same)

March 12 (Sat) 5th Annual Women's Studies Conference: Hearts, Heads, and Minds: Feminism in Thought and Action, at Rutgers University. Submit proposals for workshops, panels, papers, poetry, etc. by Jan. 15, 1988. For more info, call 932-9719 (see pg. 8 of Nov. 1987 issue of Sojourner for address).



Bi Women

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

New subscription

Renewal

Check one: Low income (\$7)
 Regular (\$14)
 Sustaining (\$25-49)
 Near Goddess (\$50 and up)

Note: Mailing list is confidential.

Moving? Please give us 4 weeks notice:

B.B.W.N.
P.O. Box 539, Cambridge MA 02140
(617) 247-6683.

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YOUR NETWORK!**

